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NEWS SUMMARY

GENERAL BUSINESS

Angry crowds greet Thatcher

Police arrested nine people as angry crowds greeted the Prime Minister Mrs Thatcher during her tour of towns in Lancashire. Jeering crowds threw eggs, flour and paint in her direction as she and her husband, Denis Thatcher, visited factories in Bamber Bridge, Salford, Accrington and Rawtenstall in the Rossendale valley. All the missiles missed her but a Tory official was showered with flour.

Rizzoli arrests
Italian police arrested at dawn the chairman and managing director of the Rizzoli publishing group, which owns Italy's leading newspaper, the Corriere della Sera. Back Page

S. Africa blast
A bomb blast at a South African government employment office in Bloemfontein injured 76 people, 18 seriously. Page 2

Indian boycott
Four opposition parties in India boycotted the opening of the Indian Parliament's budget session in protest against the "mismanagement" of protests in Assam. Page 2

Italy rejects plea
Italy has turned down a Soviet demand for the immediate release of Soviet airline official held on spy charges.

TV ultimatum
Central Television in Herts has given nearly 600 workers a two-week deadline to accept six terms of moving to the Midlands or face redundancy.

'Reply' Bill fails
A Bill providing a statutory right of reply in newspapers, television and radio, failed by 10 votes in the House of Commons. Page 3

Captain cleared
Glasgow Sheriff Court cleared Captain David Neill of incompetence in connection with the grounding of the steamship Waverley in 1977, and Police Ivanhoe in 1981.

Cricket tour off
A four-week tour of the West Indies by the England women's cricket team has been called off because five of them have toured in South Africa.

Tanks mum
An 18-year-old army sapper paid his mother a surprise dawn visit in a 50-ton Chieftain tank which he had driven 80 miles from Bovingdon to Basingstoke.

Briefly
About 10,000 French airline employees began a 24-hour strike.
An explosion shattered windows in the Washington Soviet Airlines building.
Czechoslovakian police shot and killed a man trying to hijack a domestic flight.
Fire in Ghana destroyed thousands of acres of plantations.

Chief price changes yesterday
(Prices in pence unless otherwise indicated)
RISES
Tread 12pc 87 + 1/2 £102.4 + 1/2
Tread 13pc 2004-06 11174 + 1
BET Did 220 + 22
Bruning 150 + 16
Comstock 135 + 6
Electro-Protective 354 + 6
Hollis Bros & ESA 50 + 5
Kennedy Brooks 209 + 13
Land Securities 303 + 5
Lloyds Bank 478 + 33
NatWest Bank 530 + 23
Netherland Goldsmiths 174 + 15
Pall (F) 22 + 7
Royal Bk Scotland 127 + 7
Sound Diffusion 276 + 26
Tilbury 118 + 10
Woolworth 216 + 5
BP 224 + 8
Britoil 238 + 7
Mariner 67 + 14
FALLS
BTR 426 - 1 1/2
Blue Circle 400 - 1 1/2
Brown (J) 17 - 2
Ferranti 471 - 11
ICI 380 - 6
Lond & Liverpool 530 - 18
Polly Peck 2324 - 11
Sedgwick 18 - 3
Toner Kemsley 18 - 18
Unilever 790 - 15
Carr Boyd 125 - 7
F. S. Geduld 336 - 2
Gid M. Kalgoolie 780 - 30
Hartbeest 554 - 11
Impala Plat 620 - 20
Outa Exploration 48 - 5
Posidon 292 - 8
West Rand Cons 700 - 35

UK FISCAL IMPACT SLIGHT • & STEADY • OPEC IN DISARRAY

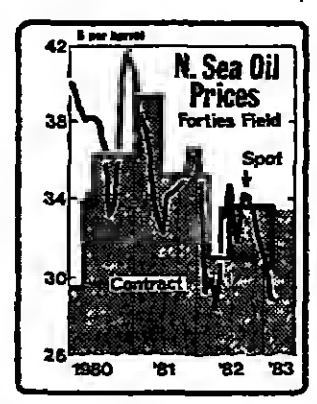
North Sea oil price falls \$3

BY RAY DAFTER AND ROGER MATTHEWS

BRITISH NATIONAL OIL Corporation triggered a widespread cut in oil prices yesterday when it asked its suppliers and customers to accept a \$3 a barrel reduction in North Sea prices. Statoil, the Norwegian state oil corporation, said that Norway would immediately reduce its North Sea prices by between \$3 and \$3.45 a barrel in line with the UK price cut. And industry reports said that some members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, including Nigeria, were also preparing to follow suit. Nigeria, which produces a similar type of crude to the UK and Norway, is expected to match BNOC's proposed \$3.50 a barrel reference price. This would entail Nigeria cutting the rate for its high quality Bonny Light crude by \$5 a barrel. It is unlikely that BNOC, the major traders of North Sea oil, will obtain unqualified acceptance for its recommended pricing package. Some refiners who buy oil from the corporation said they were disappointed that the proposed cut was not greater, while independent producers said they would have liked a smaller reduction. BNOC's proposals are thus a compromise. They will probably be accepted by its suppliers and customers next week on condition only that prices can be adjusted again in the event of a further fluctuation in the oil market.

The price of Forties and Brent crudes — the two main UK grades — is set to fall \$3 a barrel to \$30.50, backdated to February 1. BNOC is proposing cuts of between \$2.90 and \$3.50, in the price of other grades to reflect the quality and methods of transport. If accepted, other prices would be: \$29.55 Flotta, \$29.75 Beatrice, \$30.10 Ninian, \$30.30 Argyll, \$30.75 Beryl, Fulmar and Statford, \$30.85 Montrose.

The price cut will reduce the UK Government's North Sea revenues by about \$800m in the 1983-84 financial year, according to stockbrokers Phillips and Drew. It will leave the Government with revenues of about \$3.8m — exactly the amount anticipated last autumn when the brokers were working on the incorrect assumptions of a higher oil price and a higher value for sterling. The foreign exchanges seemed to indicate that the price cut had been fully discounted in advance. Although sterling opened in London at a four-year low on the Bank of England's trade-weighted index — at 80.5 it was 0.2 down on the previous night's level — by the close it had recovered to 80.7 (1975=100). Sterling was also unchanged in London against the dollar, closing at \$1.5423. Although BNOC's proposals had been well signalled, they still provoked a flurry of speculation that the most hard-pressed members of Opec would be forced to break ranks and announce unilateral price cuts. Pressure for an emergency Opec meeting is certain to intensify over the weekend. Yet Saudi Arabia is insisting that there must be prior agreement on prices, production quotas and differentials. If Opec were to meet without such an understanding, Saudi officials believe the future of the organisation could be put at serious risk. Nigeria could delay its planned price cuts if it receives rapid reassurances from Saudi Arabia on Opec strategy. Sheikh Ali Khalifa, the Kuwait Minister of Oil, said yesterday that two Opec members were already discussing a \$4 cut in their crude prices. He said that if they persisted they could be disqualified from attending future Opec talks on pricing.



Some of the victims literally stood their ground, refusing to retreat and yesterday, despite terrible pain and sorrow, the talk was of immediately reconquering the burnt-out land. Yet the damage from the holocaust of Wednesday night and Thursday is enormous, as Australians know they must learn — as they should have learnt in the past — not to take the heat for granted. At least 43 people died in Victoria, and 26 in South Australia. Some died alone, defending homes and possessions. Others died in groups, including 12 voluntary firefighters encircled and incinerated near Beaconsfield, Victoria. In Victoria, where 33 people died in just three townships —

BUSH FIRE VICTIMS WILL NOT GIVE IN

Remarkable Aussies show their mettle

BY MICHAEL THOMPSON-NOEL IN SYDNEY

AUSTRALIANS are remarkable. In the midst of this week's appalling bush fires — when houses and pastures and people were burning — the universal reaction was of holding firm, and fighting back. Some of the victims literally stood their ground, refusing to retreat and yesterday, despite terrible pain and sorrow, the talk was of immediately reconquering the burnt-out land. Yet the damage from the holocaust of Wednesday night and Thursday is enormous, as Australians know they must learn — as they should have learnt in the past — not to take the heat for granted. At least 43 people died in Victoria, and 26 in South Australia. Some died alone, defending homes and possessions. Others died in groups, including 12 voluntary firefighters encircled and incinerated near Beaconsfield, Victoria. In Victoria, where 33 people died in just three townships —



Mount Macedon, Macedon, and Cockatoo — more than 1,500 homes have been destroyed. In South Australia, more than 1,100 square miles of agricultural land was burnt, as well as more than 750 farms and 200 houses. It is estimated that more than 200,000 sheep and 6,000 cattle perished in just one area of South Australia. All told, the fires destroyed property conservatively valued at A\$250m (£155m); timber — both state pine forest and native hardwood — worth more than A\$50m; thousands of head of

Water strike goes on, say unions

BY PHILIP BASSETT, LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

LEADERS OF 28,500 striking water workers last night rejected an appeal to call off their factional strike, as the inquiry into the pay dispute got under way. Immediately after the water unions and the National Water Council had their first session with the inquiry set up by the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service, Dr Tom Johnston, chairman of the inquiry, asked the unions to call off the strike. The unions told him that it was not possible to meet his request. Union leaders believe that to halt the action at this stage would weaken their position. Full supporting evidence was presented by both sides to Dr Johnston, principal of Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, and in inquiry members Mr Gill Keys, joint general secretary of the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades 82, and Mr Michael Bett, board member for personnel and industrial relations at British Telecom. The chairman ruled that neither party should make public their extensive evidence, so as not to prejudice the inquiry's deliberations, which are being held in private. All sides were guarded last

night on how long the inquiry was likely to take. The inquiry team is determined that its full report should provide a final determination of the complex issues surrounding the dispute. However, it feels the need to take relatively speedy action. It is expected that both sides will face a series of questions from the inquiry members today, following the full submission of all the evidence yesterday and a preliminary meeting last night at which opening statements and summaries of the respective cases were made. One estimate was that the inquiry would begin to make its

judgments late this afternoon, with a report still possible tomorrow afternoon. A settlement of the dispute could still be delayed if the unions decided to put the inquiry's findings out to their members for a swift consultation. Equally the employers seem likely to insist that they will need time to consider the findings before the proceedings moved into their final stage — the translation of the report into a full agreement by the National Joint Industrial Council for the water manual workers, chaired, if necessary, by Acas. The initial session of the inquiry was held in London. Continued on Back Page

Lloyds Bank profits hit by bad debt provision

BY WILLIAM HALL, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

LLOYDS BANK yesterday reported an 18 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £315.9m for the year ending December 1982. The profit fall, to the lower end of stock market expectations, followed a 150 per cent rise in the provision for bad and doubtful debt to £218.9m. Lloyds is generally reckoned to be more exposed than other large UK clearers in its lending to Latin American countries facing international debt problems. Nonetheless, Lloyds Bank shares jumped 33p to 478p yesterday following the bank's confident dividend increase of 15 per cent, making a total of 24.58p. This follows a 25 per cent increase in 1981. Clearing bank shares rose sharply following the results and the FT Actuaries Bank index rose to an all-time high of 318.30. Sir Jeremy Morse, Lloyds Bank chairman, said the big increase in provisions for bad and doubtful debts both at home and abroad reflected "the troubled state of the world economy. But our balance sheet remains stronger trading results before provisions have continued to improve, and the cover enables us to increase the dividend by 15 per cent." Lloyds Bank's total balance sheet rose by 25 per cent to £424.4bn, of which some 56 per cent is denominated in foreign

Superdrug is 95 times oversubscribed

By Dominic Lawson

THE OFFER for sale of 25 per cent of the equity of Superdrug Stores has been almost 95 times oversubscribed by would-be investors. The 8.8m shares on offer brought in 240,000 applications, for a total of 840m shares — equivalent to £147m. This is believed to be a record oversubscription multiple for a new issue. The previous record is thought to have been held by Enotherm International, the electronics company, whose offer five years ago attracted an 85-fold oversubscription. A week ago the Government's offer of 49 per cent of the shares of Associated British Ports attracted 2740m applications in a 34-fold oversubscription. Mr Ronald Goldstein, joint chairman of the family-run discount retailers, said that he was "staggered" by the response to the offer, but Continued on Back Page

Six reasons for switching to Japan now

*Over the last ten years, the Japanese Gross National Product has increased by more than that of any other industrialised nation. Inflation is down to below 2% a year.
*Today Japan leads the world in high technology. Resources are constantly shifted from yesterday's industries into tomorrow's new ones such as industrial electronics and communications systems.
*Japan exports less of what it produces than the average EEC country, including the UK. It is simply a measure of Japan's success that our homes contain so many Japanese goods.
Despite the recent strengthening of the Japanese currency, we expect a further rise in the Yen's value over the coming months.
Tokyo is the world's second largest stockmarket. It offers whole sections not available in London.
Tokyo currently profits in the short-term, and still does not reflect fully the recovery prospects.

41% up in first four months!
Since issued on 16th October 1982, the offer price of units in HK Japan Trust has risen from 25p to 35.3p (as at 15th February 1983) — an increase of over 41%. To date, over £4 million has been invested in the Fund.
On the spot investment management This is provided by Wandley Investment Services (part of the Group's merchant bank in the Far East) which overcomes the problem of Tokyo time difference with London.
THE HK JAPAN TRUST aims to provide long-term capital growth from an actively-managed portfolio of Japanese securities.
HOW TO INVEST Simply complete the application form below and send it in with your remittance to the address shown.
Remember, the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.
The Small Print For your information, the offer price of units on 15th February was 35.3p and the estimated gross yield 100%. All the Trust's cash and investments are held on behalf of unitholders by its independent Trustees, Lloyds Bank Plc. The Trust is authorised by the Department of Trade and is a Wider Range Security Application will be acknowledged and certificates normally sent within six weeks. You can sell back your units at the bid price (on receipt of your instructions by telephone or letter. Prices and yields are quoted in the national press. An initial service charge of 5% is included in the offer price of units, out of which the

HK JAPAN TRUST
To: HK Unit Trust Managers Ltd, 3 Frederick's Place, London EC2R 8ED.
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1/We wish to invest (Indebtedness £2000 £) In HK Japan Trust at the price ruling on receipt of this application, and enclose a remittance payable to HK Unit Trust Managers Ltd.
Signature: _____
Address: _____
Date: _____
Please tick for ☐ Personal investment of net savings ☐ Details of Share Exchange Scheme ☐ Details of other investments
This offer is open only to investors who are over 25.
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UK NEWS

Bill to give reply rights in media is defeated

By Kevin Brown

A BILL providing a statutory right of reply in newspapers and on television and radio failed by just 10 votes in the Commons yesterday.

The Right of Reply in the Media Bill, introduced by Mr Frank Aulman, a Labour MP, was supported by 90 MPs with only seven voting against. But it fell short of the 100 votes needed for a private members' Bill to proceed.

In spite of opposition from the Home Office, Mr Aulman's proposal drew wide cross-party support, with six Labour MPs and six Conservatives among its sponsors.

The Bill would have given a right of reply to anyone referred to in a report which he or she had "reasonable grounds for considering to be factually inaccurate or distorted". Newspapers would have had to publish replies within three days of the complaint in a position as prominent as the original report. Disputes would have been resolved by a panel headed by a judge, backed up with fines of up to £30,000 for non-compliance.

The detailed provisions of the Bill attracted less support than its principle, which Mr Aulman, the left-wing Labour MP for Salford East, said was "to protect individuals, organisations and companies against unfair, ill-founded and inaccurate reports".

But opponents as well as supporters warned that pressure for legislation would continue to grow if the press, particularly the Fleet Street tabloids, failed to put their own house in order.

Mr David Mellor, Under-Secretary at the Home Office, said the Government preferred to rely on the Press Council and the "potent forces" of public opinion to restrain excesses. But he warned that if the public lost face in the self-regulating mechanisms of powerful newspapers, "the demand for external statutory controls may become overwhelming".

The Bill was backed by Mr Roy Hattersley, the shadow Home Secretary and Guardian columnist, who said it was "wholly desirable", although "largely unworkable". It is not possible to read tabloid newspapers and come to the conclusion that there will be a sudden desire to improve their standards and change their conduct," he said.

Mr Jonathan Aitken (Con, Thanet East), a former journalist and member of the Beaverbrook family, said the Bill was deeply flawed. But he told MPs: "Today's debate has been a useful safety-valve and it has been a warning to the media that it has to do something to put its own house in order."

Sales of Irish spirits to Ulster up 20%

By Brendan Keenan in Dublin

SALES of Irish whiskey, gin and vodka to Northern Ireland rose 20 per cent by volume last year. Much was smuggled back into the Republic of Ireland, it is thought. The price differential is almost £40 a case. Smuggling's extent is partly reflected in the Republic's 10 per cent drop in recorded consumption.

The figures were given at the annual meeting of Irish Distillers, which makes all the Republic's leading brands. In spite of its dominance, however, Mr Frank O'Reilly, chairman, said smuggling was of concern to the company.

Retiring as chairman after 17 years, he said: "It results in loss of revenue to the state, affects the balance of payments and disrupts our trade with our valued customers north and south."

Irish Distillers is performing well in export markets. It expects higher profits for the year to September and higher dividends are expected. Shares, 51p 12 months ago, are at a three-year high of 111p.

Scotch Whisky downturn. Page 14

VAT change for pension funds

By Eric Short

CHANGES in VAT procedures will mean considerable tax savings for employers operating company pension schemes.

In the past, the employer and the trustees of the pension scheme have been treated as separate entities for VAT purposes. The employer could only offset VAT on expenses incurred in setting up the scheme or amending the trust deed.

Under the proposed change, from April 1, 1983, employers will be able to offset VAT on day-to-day administration expenses, such as collection of contributions and payment of benefits, but not on the costs of investment of the fund's assets.

The changes have been announced by the Customs and Excise Department following representations from the National Association of Pension Funds.

Private cleaning 'could save NHS £40m a year'

By Lisa Wood

THE National Health Service could save £20m to £40m of about £400m spent annually on cleanings hospitals if private contractors were called in, it was claimed yesterday.

Mr Eric Green, chairman of the Contract Cleaning and Maintenance Association, was commenting on government plans for health authorities to put hospital catering, laundry and cleaning services out to competitive tender in order to test costs.

These services cost the

Health Service about £800m a year. The cleaning of hospitals cost £391m in 1981-82.

Mr Green said his association had started discussions with the Government in the late-1970s to find out "in an informal way" whether association members could provide domestic services for NHS hospitals.

About 15 months ago the association formed a health care services section. This drafted a code of practice. More than 60 association members signed this code. The code will be sent on request to health authorities seeking names of

cleaning companies to which they may wish to put services out to tender.

Mr Mike Davis, chairman of the health care services section, said: "We have imposed a strict code of practice on our members. It stresses the need to provide an efficient but caring service in this sector, which calls for the highest standards of professionalism and cleaning skills."

The association said private contractors placed great emphasis on high productivity through modern cleaning techniques and staff management training. Mr Davis said substantial

savings had been made already in Britain's military hospitals. There private contractors were called in by the Defence Ministry. He believed, savings had been greater than 25 per cent and in some cases up to 40 per cent.

Mr Green, who said he would welcome discussions with Health Service Unions, said: "We would be prepared and like to use staff employed by health authorities. What we cannot guarantee is the use of the same number of people."

The association said private contractors would not always be

able to provide a cheaper service. What was happening was they were being put to the test.

Commenting on union reaction Mr Davis said the draft circular made clear there would be a proper period of consultation before tenders were invited.

The association said it would take several years before any really large penetration was made by private contractors into the provision of non-medical hospital services.

It envisaged private contractors extending into services cur-

rently done by ward orderly staff, such as washing-up and distributing meals.

● The British Hotels Restaurants and Caterers Association said it welcomed the Government's initiative and its intention to refund VAT so that fair comparisons could be made between an authority's own staff and contractor operation.

● Mr Norman Fowler, Health Minister, visiting Coventry yesterday, said he was not trying to dismantle the NHS. "I would have thought I had made this quite clear in my Commons statement," he said.

BA chief plots recovery course with major marketing campaign

By Michael Donne, Aerospace Correspondent

MR COLIN MARSHALL, who took up his duties as chief executive of British Airways, on February 1, has moved swiftly to set the airline on a course for sustained profitability with a major marketing drive.

Mr Marshall's business background in the Sears Holdings Group and formerly also with Avis and Hertz car rental, is concentrated on marketing. He appointed Mr Jim Harris, currently head of BA's passenger and cargo sales, to head a top-level marketing team whose brief is to boost revenues.

BA earns close to £2bn a year in passenger and cargo

revenues, but needs much more to offset rising costs. Losses in 1981-82, including special items, amounted to £344m.

Mr Harris, who will also retain his present post, said yesterday that the new organisation would be a development of the present system.

"We are not setting up a 'think tank'. We are going to be taking practical decisions and we shall have to live with the consequences," he said.

"There will be no empire-building. The new organisation will be very slim, since that is the way to get swift decisions. We now have a fundamentally different way of tackling how to sell our airline's services."

"Basically, we are selling a similar service to that of our scores of competitors. At a time of great over-capacity the way to success is to meet the needs of our customers better than anyone else does."

Mr Harris's team will be Mr Stuart Luxon, group leader responsible for marketing services; Mr Terry Gray, responsible for cargo marketing; Mr Paul Hoppey, responsible for distribution and passenger services; and Mr Peter Owen, taking over marketing development and research.

They will collectively devise marketing policies world-wide, which the rest of the airline will be required to follow.

Airline supplies group formed

By Michael Donne, Aerospace Correspondent

A GROUP of catering equipment supply companies have formed a consortium to provide airlines with a wide range of in-flight products. The market is worth millions of pounds a year.

Two of the companies have already been named — Bacofoil and Basilidon Moulding — and the names of the others are expected to be announced soon.

The consortium will provide catering equipment such as cups, saucers, plates, cutlery and other items, both disposable and reusable. It aims to retain orders from UK airlines against tough international competition, and also

bid for export business. A potential £15m contract from British Airways which appeared likely to go to The Netherlands is being put out to tender by the airline and is being sought by the consortium. Discussions are also being held with other major UK airlines.

Mr Alan Gunter, marketing director of Basilidon Moulding, said yesterday that in the past British Airways had "flown the flag" by buying British catering equipment.

"We believe that this policy should continue, since the consortium can supply at a totally competitive price and also offer a full and very rapid service

which includes the backup facilities." The supply of in-flight catering equipment has previously been fragmented, with each specialist manufacturer and supplier bidding for contracts for its range of products.

The consortium aims to change this enabling airlines to buy from one central source. It says cost savings will be passed on to the airlines, which in turn will benefit from competitive prices and savings in their own costs through having a central source of supply for most, if not all, of their in-flight catering equipment needs.

Lloyd's looks at agency's links

By John Moore, City Correspondent

OFFICIALS of Lloyd's, the insurance market, are conducting an informal fact-finding inquiry into the affairs of one of its underwriting agencies, Edward Williams Coutts & Partners.

Mr Alan Devlin, a director of the agency, said yesterday that the regulatory investigative unit at Lloyd's had been given certain information and "obviously they have to look into it."

Edward Williams Coutts looks after the affairs of about 600 members of Lloyd's and is an independent agency company. It runs one of the largest of some syndicates of Lloyd's members which specialise in the insurance of general or non-marine, insurance business.

It is understood that Lloyd's is studying the relationship of three of Edward Williams Coutts' executives with a company called Orbell's, an insurance consultancy which is controlled by the three executives.

It is also examining the relationship of Orbell's with Nicholas Reinsure, an insurance and reinsurance company in which Orbell's has a shareholding, and the relationship of Orbell's with Nicholas Securities.

The regulatory investigative unit at Lloyd's, which has just been set up to help with inquiries into the affairs of Alexander Howden and Minet, confirmed that it was looking at the matter yesterday.

Mr Devlin said letters would be going out to underwriting

members and agents early next week together with "all our disclosure statements."

The agency intends to circulate to all the syndicate's members with details of all the related companies in what must be the first extensive disclosure of this type at Lloyd's.

Mr Devlin said the only benefit that the three directors who had been associated with Orbell's had derived from the relationship was £1,500 each in the form of directors' remuneration. In the last accounts for 1981 no dividend had been paid.

He added that the relationship with the other companies meant certain expenses which might have otherwise been charged to the members of the Lloyd's syndicate were charged to those other companies.

TSB Scotland chooses Glasgow base

By Our Banking Correspondent

TSB SCOTLAND, the bank being formed through the amalgamation of the Scottish savings banks, will be based on Glasgow, but it also plans to set up a specialist banking division in Edinburgh.

Mr John Lowrie, deputy chairman of the steering committee for the bank, said that with half the population of Scotland clustered around Glasgow, it made a sensible choice.

However, many bankers regard Edinburgh as Scotland's financial centre, and TSB Scotland hoped to get the best of both worlds by establishing a banking operation there too.

The bank is anxious to win full recognition, banking status as soon as possible.

The siting of TSB Scotland's headquarters has caused considerable debate among the Scottish savings banks, and Peat Marwick Mitchell, the management consultants, were hired to advise on where the base should be.

The Glasgow office will be located in the existing headquarters of the West of Scotland TSB and will have a staff of up to 200.

The Edinburgh office, which will deal with the clearing operation and wholesale banking, will have a staff of 30 to 40.

TSB Scotland will be formed on May 20. It will rank fourth in size among the Scottish clearing banks, with assets of £1.2bn, 2,500 staff and 286 branches.

But it will have the biggest personal customer base: one in four Scots have a TSB account.

Mr Tony Davidson, general manager of the TSB and Central Scotland TSB, and Mr David McLean, deputy general manager of the West of Scotland TSB, will form the nucleus of the new management team, along with Mr John Lowrie, Mr Ian MacDonald, shortly to retire as executive director of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, will become chief executive.

OFT to probe TV advertising discounts

By David Churchill

CONSUMER AFFAIRS Correspondent THAMES TELEVISION'S policy of granting special discounts to certain advertising agencies is to be investigated by the Office of Fair Trading under the terms of the 1980 Competition Act.

The investigation, announced yesterday by the OFT, has significant implications for the relationship between the media, advertising agencies and advertisers over the buying and selling of advertisements.

The move follows complaints by the J. Walter Thompson advertising agency — one of the largest in the UK — that Thames was operating a discriminatory policy in granting discounts to certain agencies.

It is alleged that Thames was granting special discounts to agencies which spent 65 per cent of their television advertising budget in the London area with Thames.

J. Walter Thompson says it has refused to devote such a proportion of its television advertising specifically to Thames because it believes it is not in its clients' interest to place commercials with a particular station solely because extra discounts are granted to the agency.

The OFT has become worried that Thames's policy could have repercussions on competition for advertising in the London area.

Its concern stems largely from the monopoly position enjoyed by Thames in the supply of television advertising time on the main ITV network during the week. London Weekend Television takes over the franchise at the weekend.

The OFT believes Thames's discounts policy may be aimed at restricting the amount of revenue available to LWT. It could also be argued that Thames is using its market power to encourage advertisers to spend more than they otherwise would, or to take advertising away from the press and other media.

The OFT is also concerned about the practice of restricting discounts to factors unrelated to costs or quantity.

Following J. Walter Thompson's initial complaint to the OFT last summer, the Independent Broadcasting Authority intervened and appeared to rule out the discriminatory discounts being offered by Thames. However the OFT believes Thames is still offering special discounts to certain agencies without formally publishing them.

The investigation is likely to prove a test case for other discounts offered by advertising agencies, and is being closely watched by the advertising world, newspapers, and television.

The OFT's investigation is likely to last several months and could be followed by a further probe by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to determine the public interest issues involved.

Thames said yesterday it could not comment because the repercussions for the rest of the advertising industry.

Soviet cruise lines 'agree to cut UK market share'

By Andrew Fisher, Shipping Correspondent

BRITISH CRUISE ship operators said yesterday that their Soviet rivals, who have recently won a large slice of the UK market, agreed this week to cut their capacity in 1984.

The size of the reduction was not specified, but the General Council of British Shipping said UK companies took the "firm view" that Soviet capacity would be down next year.

Involved in the talks on the British side were P & O Cruises, Cunard, and the GCBS. CTC Lines, the British agent for Soviet vessels, was not able to comment last night.

The UK companies will not know until the Soviet brochure comes out in a few weeks just how far they have been prepared to cut capacity. CTC has disputed claims of the size of its market share.

British cruise operators said that the Soviet lines offered 63 cruises out of UK ports last

year against 25 in 1980, with their share of the UK market up from 14 per cent (13,130 berths) to 26 per cent (21,400).

CTC, however, said its share was about 12 per cent. The GCBS said yesterday that contacts between both sides would continue to ensure that future capacity is aligned to demand.

Soviet sailings for 1983 will be up on last year. CTC said earlier this week ahead of the talks that it did not want artificial quotas to restrict passenger choice.

CTC also said that it planned some 20m of reflagging in UK yards for four ships. Unfair restrictions, it added, "may place these valuable orders in jeopardy."

The GCBS replied yesterday that it had noted this "blackmail threat" and made quite clear to the Soviet lines that the UK industry would not respond to such an approach.

Talks continue on salary for steel industry chief

By John Elliott, Industrial Editor

NEGOTIATIONS ON the salary and other benefits that would be paid to Sir Alastair Frame for the post of chairman of the British Steel Corporation are likely to continue till well into next week.

Unless some last minute hitch arises, an announcement will then be made that he will give up his job as deputy chairman and chief executive of Rio Tinto-Zinc to take on the steel chairmanship in June or July.

He will succeed Mr Ian MacGregor who is now negotiating terms with the Government to transfer to the chairmanship of the National Coal Board in July.

Yesterday Sir Alastair confirmed that he had been "approached" by the Government about being chairman of BSC. He said that no decision had yet been made.

E. Anglia penalised on regional aid, say councils

By Katrina Lowe

EAST ANGLIA's population is growing much faster than its regional grant aid, according to a report produced by local authorities in the area.

The councils, which have been campaigning about the grant allocation to East Anglia for many years, claim that fast-growing regions are discriminated against under the Block Grant system, introduced in April, 1981.

The East Anglian Consultative Committee (EACC) says in its 1982 annual review that the region has the fastest-growing population in Britain, mainly because of people moving there to retire.

The report disputes the Government's claim, made when the system was introduced, that it would place less emphasis on expenditure as a measure of means. As the lowest-spending region in Britain, with spending £107-a-head less than the national average, "the East Anglian local authorities"

traditional thrift is working against them," says the report.

Unemployment in the region stands at 11.3 per cent compared with the national average of 14 per cent in the 18 months to March 1982, jobs in the region fell by almost 10 per cent.

With a record number of school leavers in September, unemployment among young people is high — and would be higher but for increased places on Manpower Services Commission training schemes. Those under 24 form nearly 40 per cent of the region's unemployed.

The report points out that less than 10,000 houses were built in 1981 in the region — the lowest figure for many years. The trend continues in 1982: under 24 form nearly 40 per cent of the region's unemployed.

In the private sector there were more starts although completions were about the same as in 1981. In both sectors 1982 starts (January-June) are well up on 1981, however.

Court quashes injunction on brokers

By Raymond Hughes, Law Courts Correspondent

COMMODITY brokers Wilson Smithett & Cope have defeated in the Court of Appeal an attempt to stop them operating a client's bank guarantees.

The court refused to grant Shirley & Tudor Estates continuation of a temporary injunction granted last August stopping the brokers claiming on guarantees issued by Menufacturers Hanover Trust and Barclays Bank.

Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, said that under an agreement made early last year, the brokers were entitled to require security for possible losses on transactions, they entered into on Shirley's behalf.

The agreement was heavily loaded in the brokers' favour, entitling them to close out positions with or without notice. On June 17 the commodity markets had one of their

"spasms", when prices changed rapidly. During the morning the brokers' potential liability in respect of Shirley's transactions exceeded their security by about \$120,000 (£78,000).

Shirley contended that it had then been orally agreed that the brokers would take no action to close out until between 5 pm and 6 pm that day. But at 4 pm the brokers closed out some of Shirley's positions, leading to a very substantial loss.

Shirley had sued, alleging breach of contract, and the question was whether there should be an injunction stopping the brokers claiming trial.

Shirley argued that if there were no injunction considerable embarrassment would be caused to the two banks, which would be in a quandary about whether they were liable under the guarantees.

The judge observed that if banks issued such guarantees they must appreciate the risks, and if the risks came home to roost, the banks could hardly regard their customers as responsible.

The brokers' contention was that they entered into the agreement with Shirley on the basis that they would have certain rights, including rights in respect of the guarantees, and that there were no grounds for preventing them from exercising those rights.

Since August the brokers had been restrained from operating the guarantees, and interest was accruing on sums that already exceeded the limit of the guarantees.

The balance of convenience was heavily in favour of continuing the injunction, Sir John concluded.

Bidding for growth second time around

BRIAN BEAZER is careful not to build up too much hope on his company's £15.8m bid for Second City Properties.

But he finds grounds for encouragement in the non-committal wording of Second City's reply in the bid from his Ball-based housing and materials group, C. H. Beazer (Holdings).

"This is not what is called a rejection, it's a holding statement," says Mr Beazer, holding up the document put out by Second City in response to the bid.

Second City, a Bilston, West Midlands, property developer, and its advisers, Samuel Montagu, merely note that no formal approach has been received. They say the merits of Beazer's bid can be assessed only when they have had a chance to study the company's documents, which must go out to the next 28 days.

Mr Beazer is doubly keen for the deal to go through. His company's previous take-over bid — for the Brighton-based group R. Green Properties — was

Charles Batchelor talks to the man behind Beazer's new takeover move

topped last month by Thymon Trust which offered £16.5m — £2.5m more than Beazer.

"It is like comparing a cream cake with a joint of beef," Mr Beazer says of the two deals. "Green had 15 employees, turnover of £4m a year and built 50 houses a year."

"Second City employs 200 people, has turnover of £18m and builds 650 houses a year." Unfortunately for Beazer, Green commissioned an outside valuation of its assets which turned up a value of 187p per share compared with Beazer's offer of just over 112p — and Thymontrout leaped in.

A link-up between Beazer and Second City would produce a company building almost 2,000 houses a year. And it would put Beazer in about seventh place in the UK housebuilding league, Mr Beazer believes.

The deal would also create a group with a broad geographical spread in the South and Midlands, the wealthiest parts of the country.

"I do have a yen for housebuilding. My family started out as builders in South Gloucestershire in 1950," says Mr Beazer, 48.

He is the sixth generation to be involved in the company, which he joined from school in 1956. Then, it was a prosperous, small company building 70 houses a year and undertaking the occasional property development.

Since then, the company has expanded to encompass 25 significant operating companies engaged in five main areas — property, building, building materials, engineering and specialist activities, which include prefabricated buildings, timber engineering, kitchen equipment and plastics.

Pre-tax profits were £4.0m in the year ended June 30, 1982, from £631,000 five years earlier on turnover up to £48m from £11.7m.

"We are trying to build a conglomerate which covers the whole of the building and property industries by acquisition and organic growth," says Mr Beazer.

Five years after he rose to become managing director of the company, in 1968, the group went public. The Beazer family still holds about 20 per cent of the company's equity.

But Mr Beazer is likely to be the last of the family to have a direct involvement in the company. He says the chances are that his daughter will not follow him into the company. "In a group of our size nepotism is out of date."

Mr Beazer says he began looking at both Green and Second City at about the same time.

New Green had fallen through, he says he has looked at every building in the Second City portfolio and to have valued each one personally.

He wants Second City for its property development expertise but describes its profits record as "solid rather than exciting."

Pre-tax profits hovered at about the firm mark in the late 1970s, rising to £1.2m in 1980, £1.3 in 1981 and rising more strongly to £1.5m last year.

Second City has been the frequent subject of bid speculation in recent years, though nothing happened until Beazer came along. Mr Beazer is hoping that none of the many companies which are believed to have looked at Second City now emerge with a counter bid.

Council polls Bill rejected

By Kevin Brown

THE LORDS yesterday rejected a Bill introducing proportional representation in local government elections. Peers voted 68 to 60 to drop a private members' Bill introduced by Lord Harris of Greenwich, Social Democrat. He said the case for single transferable voting (STV) at local level was overwhelming,

Policy group urges strike ban in essential services

BY PHILIP BASSETT, LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

THE GOVERNMENT should introduce legislation to outlaw strikes in a range of essential services in return for indexed pay and other benefits, according to the right-wing Centre for Policy Studies.

The proposal is made in an unpublished memorandum prepared for the Centre's trade union reform working party by Mr Lionel Bloch, a solicitor. Expanded proposals, including a greater emphasis on sanctions against those breaking no strike agreements will be examined next week by the group and it will probably be endorsed by a full meeting of the committee on March 16.

Suggestions from some newspaper reports of sections of the document yesterday that the proposals would form the

basis of a forthcoming White Paper for early enactment were vigorously discounted yesterday in Whitehall. Even though Mr Norman Tebbit, Employment Secretary, this week again floated the idea of such agreements, the current emphasis is on internal trade union democracy.

The document makes specific reference to the current water strike. It says: "The strike of the water workers has illustrated that there are always compelling reasons for curtailing industrial action."

The paper recommends that the Government deal with the issue boldly by means of an Act (which would draw together the various provisions in no-strike agreements in law between 1973 and 1971). It

states: "Such an Act should first of all specifically prohibit strikes in the police force, the ambulance service, the fire brigade, nurses and medical staff, gas, water, electricity, nuclear power, and sewage workers."

Also it suggests detailed provisions for compulsory arbitration in these areas.

The main suggestion is for index linking plus a specified percentage increase per annum, but also higher pensions coupled with a forfeiture of these additional benefits in the case of a strike.

The centre accepts that this will have an inflationary effect but says "this is the price we must be prepared to pay to secure peace in essential services."

Also it suggests that the Government should consider the possibility of a strike in the case of a strike.

The centre also suggests that the Government should consider the possibility of a strike in the case of a strike.

Managers warn on choice for NCB head

BY BRIAN GROOM, LABOUR STAFF

THE UNION representing managers at the National Coal Board yesterday made clear its disapproval of the likely appointment of Mr Ian MacGregor, the 70-year-old chairman of the British Steel Corporation, as the NCB's new head when Mr Norman Siddall retires at the end of June.

The executive committee of the British Association of Colliery Management, which has 17,000 members, said the next chairman "must be of an age that will enable him to take the industry through the present short-term difficulties while at

Nursing College fear over NHS plans

By Our Labour Staff

CONCERN over the Government's plans for the National Health Service was expressed yesterday by Mr Trevor Clay, general secretary of the Royal College of Nursing.

Speaking on the day after Mr Norman Fowler, the Social Services Secretary, called on health authorities to contract out non-medical services, Mr Clay warned that nursing staff should be "very suspicious" of the Government's NHS policies.

Widespread privatisation and its effects on budgets could have serious consequences for trained staff, he added.

Mr Clay also said that the RCN would be joining several other professional groups—including the British Medical Association and the Institute of Health Service Administrators—to discuss their fears, particularly on staff levels.

The RCN was keen that the Government proceeded quickly in publishing its consultative document on nurses' pay, agreed at the settlement of last year's eight-month NHS dispute.

Unions 'must agree' on attitude to youth training

BY IVO DAWNAY, LABOUR STAFF

UNIONS must reach agreement over the next year on their attitude to the new Youth Training Scheme and its role in the existing apprenticeship system, Mr Ken Graham, TUC assistant general secretary told a TUC youth conference in London yesterday.

The key question for the unions is whether the YTS—due to be fully operational by September—should develop into a common foundation year for all 16-year-olds recognised as providing the first year of apprenticeship training, he said.

The dangers of giving such recognition centred on employers using the scheme to "cream off" young people for both apprenticeships and other skill training beyond the YTS foundation year.

Alternately, however, many thought that the foundation year system would challenge academic examination results as the key to determining their futures.

If unions did accept the principle of YTS as a common foundation year, they would have to insist on the right to negotiate apprentices' pay and conditions.

Equity deal with U.S.

BY IVO DAWNAY, LABOUR STAFF

EQUITY, the actors' union, has reached a broad understanding with its American counterpart over procedures for assessing whether actors and theatre companies may perform in each other's countries, the two unions said yesterday.

The understanding was reached after a week of talks in London last week between officials of the two unions.

Under the agreement, both unions have agreed to develop a new system of exchanging information including monitoring each other's performances by foreign actors in each country.

The unions will also appoint officers specifically for the task of examining exchange deals by actors and companies. Exchange arrangements—demonstrated by a recent deal allowing the Royal Court company to perform in New York and the New York Shakespeare Festival to visit London—will be actively encouraged.

While there are few problems in allowing established "star" actors to perform in either country, a new move to let lesser-known "featured performers" work in Britain or U.S. is under way.

Wage cut call is 'made'

BY OUR LABOUR STAFF

THE RECENT spate of pay-cut demands continued yesterday, leaders of more than 180 manual workers at Tetherworth Engineering, Chesham, said they had been told to take wage reductions of up to 23 a week or face 30 redundancies.

This follows acceptance of a 9.6 per cent cut in basic rates by Hyster workers at Irvine, Scotland, and ICI's call for more than 1,000 workers at Hyde, Greater Manchester, to accept reductions of 3 per cent to 21 per cent.

Mr Michael Caulfield, works convenor at Tetherworth said the workers intended to "fight the proposed wage cuts all the way." The company management was unable to confirm the proposed reductions.

Mr Caulfield said: "Many of us are already on short time and although skilled men can earn as much as £140 a week, an unskilled man gets just £88."

Mr Caulfield said that the company, which makes mining and quarrying machinery, had recently gained orders worth £2.25m and had made £150,000 profit last year.

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Newcomers take limelight

LONDON

ONLOOKER

Trading in the London stock market this week was very much panned down by the two major new issues: Associated British Ports and Superdrug. With possibly £2bn tied up in this way equities had a very indifferent few days before yesterday's close of the three-week account.

Apart from a small rally on Tuesday, following Wall Street's intra-day rise to a record 1100, the FT Industrial index edged back from the previous week's record of 662.5, to finish up 25.9 on the account at 645.9.

Gilt took some benefit from statements about U.S. monetary policy together with the continuing prospect of lower international interest rates and a steady pound which finished the week at £1.5425 with the trade-weighted index down 0.2 at 80.7.

But the limelight was grabbed by the new issues. A more than 33 times oversubscription for shares in the country's largest port operators, ABP, stoked up the privatisation debate, and provided a touch of farce with a 24-hour delay to trading because of a Post Office mistake over the delivery of allotment letters.

ABP's shares closed the first day at a 26p premium at 138p. Superdrug, the High Street drug supermarket chain, then took the stage with a more stunning oversubscription level of 95 times as investors put up close to £1.5bn for a taste of the action.

Amid the excitement Magnet & Southern, the joinery and

timber merchant, shipped in with what some regarded as a cheeky one-for-eight rights issue to raise £28m. It came without the usual reasons of a need to reduce borrowings or signs of a major purchase.

Instead, the company, whose share performance has been strong in recent years, says it wants the money to fund the extra working capital needed for growth, after three years of near static sales and profit.

Enter Hanson, however, with five-for-eight share exchange terms. Despite Hanson's powerful cash balances the bid is in equity because it will give UDS shareholders an opportunity to maintain a stake in the planned revitalisation of the drapers' lacklustre trading performance.

The other thought that arises is that Hanson is using its highly valued paper, priced before the bid at about four times net asset backing, to buy a business whose assets are substantially discounted by the UDS share price, even at about 120p.

Where all this leaves Burton Group is not so clear. Burton was on the verge of carrying off the High Street coup of the year by purchasing UDS's John Collier and Richard Shoppe chains for £78m, payable either in cash or shares. The two chains are loss-making but Burton had convinced the City of its ability to pull substantial profits out of them. That deal now goes back to the drawing board while Hanson reviews the position; it is possible that the deal may have

to be renegotiated for the new comer's favour.

As for Bassishaw, Hanson reckons the consortium has fired its last shot. That may well be true; certainly it is becoming obvious that a cumbersome consortium is the last type of vehicle a bidder would choose to fight a final, leap-frogging bid against Hanson Trust.

Hoover picks up.

IT MIGHT not have been much but Hoover managed to pull itself into profit at the pre-tax line during the last quarter of 1982, the first time the group has made a positive return since the beginning of 1980. Yet the results were tinged with disappointment.

In the final quarter Hoover made a profit of £22,000 on sales of over £50m. The market had been hoping that the white goods giant would have scratched out something a bit better given the way retail sales of electrical goods were generally booming. It was the small profit, in the last quarter left Hoover with a £7.8m deficit in its profit and loss account against £30.3m the year before when closing Perivale and other reorganisation expenses knocked up a bill of £17.3m.

However, Hoover's important Australian subsidiary—accounting for about a fifth of group sales—was still losing, the group a lot of money in 1982. And in the UK the group has had plenty of problems in Scotland. Labour relations have not been smooth in Cambuslang and Hoover was unable to keep up a steady flow of products to the retailers.

At least production problems had one pleasant facet—borrowings were run down by 50m to £17m on the back of low stocks. The group is hoping to hold that lower debt figure

and following 1981's stagnation in Australia and a smoother run in Scotland this year should see modest profits. Even so Hoover has a long way to go before it can claim to be making a decent return on sales running at over 24m a week on average.

Textile performer

For the textile industry the recession has compounded problems of overcapacity and import competition. Within this bleak climate Marks & Spencer has provided a valuable shelter for some companies.

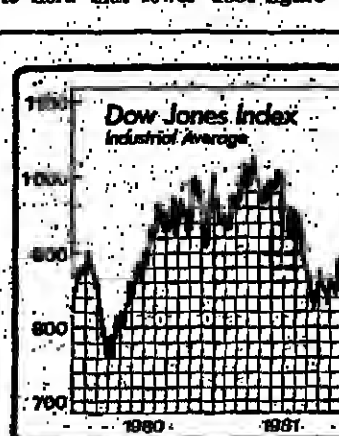
Nottingham Manufacturing, a maker of knitted outerwear, hosiery and tights, carpets, has, as a major supplier to M & S, been able to bask in some of the sunshine of the High Street retailer's growth.

Over the last nine years pre-tax profits have risen more than 11 times to a record £21.3m for 1982—12 per cent up on 1981. Trading volume last year was 10 per cent up on the previous 12 months but aggressive marketing to win market share in the very competitive conditions allowed margins leaving profits ahead only 8 per cent, on sales of £21.4m, against £19.9m previously.

But the group's cash pile, which last year rose 20 per cent to £32.8m, including leased assets, generated investment income of almost £6m, compared with £5.02m.

The shares, which have soared from a low of 70p in 1980, slipped back 10p from a peak of 240p on the results this week.

The pressure on margins is expected to ease this year, helped by a weak sterling exchange rate which should push up import prices. Though people question how long M & S can continue to raise its market share, Nottingham Manufacturing's profits should show further good growth in 1983, and in the absence of suitable acquisitions the cash pile will continue to climb.



No fireworks

NEW YORK

RICHARD LAMBERT

IT WAS standing room only at the Paul Volcker show in Washington on Wednesday, but the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board did not produce any fireworks in his long awaited presentation to the Senate Banking Committee. So although Wall Street is still looking for further gentle declines in interest rates during the coming weeks, the bond market continues to move sideways.

This in turn is tending to hold back the enthusiasm in the equity market. So is the 1,100 mark on the Dow Jones Industrial Average, which is proving to be a bit of a psychological barrier. The Dow index of 30 blue chip stocks briefly went above the 1,100 line on Tuesday, but was again unable to withstand profit-taking, of that level. And the net movement over the week as a whole was very modest.

However, second line stocks are making some progress. For instance, the Value Line composite index of nearly 1,700 shares has outperformed the market leaders in recent weeks. And there is still plenty of action to be found among individual stocks.

One example is Bestrice Foods, the Chicago-based food giant, which has moved sharply higher in very heavy trading during the last few days. That may seem an odd reaction to Wednesday's announcement that the very large write-offs would push the group into the red for the final quarter of the year ending this month. But as Damon Runyan used to say, a story goes with it.

Although it was once a stock market star, Bestrice has fallen rather out of favour in recent years when it has appeared to be more interested in sales than in profits. A new chairman started to change the pattern a year or two back, and this week Bestrice revealed that it is about to bite the bullet in a big way. A rambling corporate structure is going to be tightened significantly, a haphazard marketing style is going to be substantially beefed up, and lots of low return businesses are going to be sold.

Over in the soft drink sector, Coca Cola reported earnings growth of 14 per cent in the final quarter, and said it would consider boosting its dividend next year. The business is even more competitive than usual at present, with heavy advertising and lots of expensive new product launches. But Coca Cola has an enormously strong position in the U.S. market, and its foreign business is coming back nicely. It probably paid over the odds to buy Columbia Pictures—yet the studio has recently released some big hits which should help the current quarter.

Barney think that earnings will rise another 14 per cent or so this year to \$4.50 a share, and rate the shares as a good hold on a long-term basis. Earnings ratio of around 10 1/2.

The quarterly results reason is now drawing to a close. One of the last of the big names was Ford, which reported losses on Thursday that were more or less in line with recent expectations. Analysts are forecasting a big recovery in the current year, with earnings of \$8 a share or more in view. But that seems to be in the price, which has risen by around 140 per cent within the past 12 months to roughly \$40.

Over in Chicago, the mood at International Harvester's annual meeting was surprisingly breezy. At the special shareholders' meeting back in October, bankruptcy was the main subject of conversation. This time, by contrast, the dread word was hardly mentioned, and there now seem to be a very good chance that the group will pull through, provided that the economy does not go into a further decline.

However, Harvester is going to need at least one more major capital reconstruction, and the value of the equity in the business as it now stands is an open question.

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MARKET HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

	Price	Change	1982/3	1982/3
	Ytd	on week	High	Low
FT. Govt. Sec. Index	79.93	+1.13	85.84	61.89
FT. Ind. Ord. Index	645.9	-16.6	662.5	518.1
Assoc. Brit. Ports	137	+25	138	129
Blue Circle	400	-32	350	393
Broadstone Inv. Trust	335	+45	335	192
Davis (Goldrey)	104	+13	104	66
Davy Corporation	55	-11	180	48
Distillers	243	-16	244	162
Hawley	171	+26	171	60
Heal & Son	238	+22	238	214
Henderson (P.C.)	415	+90	420	130
Henlys	105	+16	119	72
Ketley Inds.	210	+40	212	135
Prestwich Parker	54	+17	54	26
Pritchard Services	153	+131	162	77
Reed Executive	41	+11	41	19
Second City Props.	69	+14	69	38
UDS	115	+8	117	54
Wilkes (I.)	420	+80	457	441

† Based on issue price of 112p

Bougainville blossoms

MINING

GEORGE MILLING, STANLEY

SIX MONTHS ago, this column was recording two notable "firsts": one a cause for celebration and the other decidedly the reverse.

The first of these events was a profit of AS\$7.86m (£24m) in its inaugural year for Energy Resources of Australia (ERA), which runs the Ranger uranium mine in Australia's Northern Territory.

ERA has gone from strength to strength since then, and this week reported net profits of AS\$4.02m to the end of December last year. In the previous full year, the company paid a single dividend of 4 cents a share, and has already topped that with its first-ever interim dividend, also announced this week, of 5 cents a share.

ERA's future looks distinctly rosy, with firm contracts for its uranium output running until 1986 with customers in Japan, West Germany and Sweden.

The fact that these contracts were in the main negotiated several years before the mine came into production, as a consequence of the delays caused by the then Labor Government's moratorium of uranium projects, is also a benefit to ERA.

Spot market prices obviously have an influence on the pricing of long-term contracts, and the spot market was significantly stronger when the contracts were signed than it is now.

Even so, ERA's customers have little to complain about. It could be that they might be able to acquire their uranium a little cheaper if they were prepared to shop around in the free market, but they do at least have a guaranteed source of supply over a long period.

Beyond that, the eight biggest customers share a 25 per cent stake in ERA, and this benefit from Ranger's profitability.

Speaking of ERA's shareholders, EZ Industries and Peko-Walsend must both be congratulating themselves on retaining interests of just under one-third each in the mine, as both companies are having a tough time with their other operations.

The other "first" in that column of six months ago was a first-ever loss for Bougainville in the opening six months of 1981.

Bougainville, the Rio Tinto-Zinc group's big but low-grade copper, gold and silver mine on Bougainville Island in Papua New Guinea, was hit hard by the weakness of the prices for all three of its metals, and lost a net Kina 14.6m (£12.6m) in the first half of the year.

Mr D. C. Vernon, Bougainville's chairman, warned at the time that the company was not expecting any significant upward movement in the prices for its

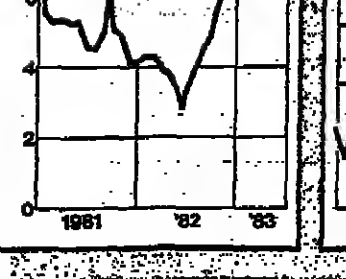
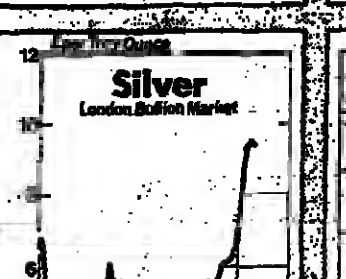
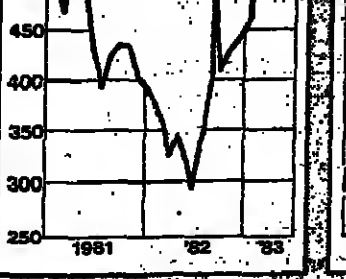
metals, and thus further losses were in prospect.

Happily, metal prices recovered so much ground during the second half of last year that Bougainville was able to recoup all of the losses made during the first six months, and even post a net profit for the full year of Kina 11.2m.

Apart from the sharp increases in metal prices, especially for the important precious metal by-products, Bougainville benefited from higher production as a result of the installation of two more ball mills, bringing the total to 12.

This boosted the amount of ore treated by 11 per cent, and helped to offset the decline in copper and silver grades.

Beyond that, the mine's management was conspicuously successful in reducing operating costs, with unit costs falling by



over a fifth to Kina 4.10 a tonne.

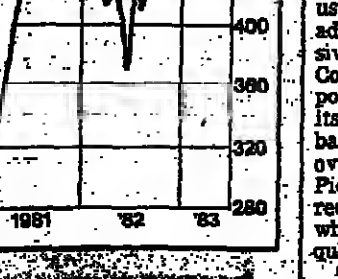
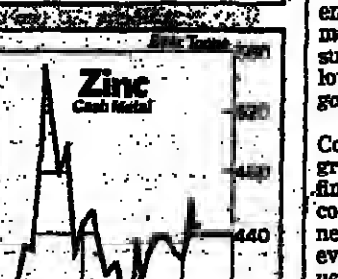
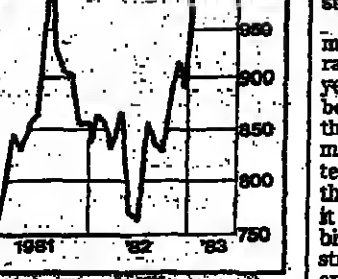
As far as metal prices are concerned, the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) this week published a special report entitled "Inflation Shelters 1983," a review of prospects for diamonds, gold, silver, and platinum.

Available from the EIU at Spencer House, 27 St James's Place, London SW1, at a price of £55, the report is a highly readable survey of recent market trends in all four commodities.

In essence, the report suggests that worldwide economic uncertainties as a consequence of possible sovereign or large corporate defaults on loans could help the commodities covered to show real gains between now and the mid-1980s.

Silver is regarded as having the greatest speculative potential, while the report concludes that the platinum price will probably not recover its former premium to the bullion price.

If all this proves to be true—and the report provides some pretty substantial evidence for its conclusions—then Bougainville could be in for a good year in 1983.



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YOUR SAVINGS AND INVESTMENTS-1

Rosemary Burr on a new American import, credit insurance

An offer you can afford to refuse

IN THE U.S., credit insurance is big business but it has never really taken off on this side of the Atlantic. Although most banks provide automatic life cover to those taking out a personal loan, they have until recently been slow to offer insurance against other hazards such as accident, sickness or unemployment.

There are a few signs that the banks are changing their minds, however, and in the last few months both Barclays Bank and Midland Bank have introduced some form of credit insurance. National Westminster says it is looking into the matter. The banks, of course, get commission from the insurance companies for selling the policies to customers.

The Trustee Savings Bank group was the first British banking group to introduce credit insurance, back in August 1977. John Loring, TSB's personal credit manager, says the move gives the bank additional security and the customer more protection. About £200m. of outstanding loans are now covered by this form of insurance.

Loring says about 50 per cent of the bank's customers agree to take up the offer of extra insurance on loans. This compares with an industry average in the U.S. of about 68 per cent.

The TSB group has linked up with a group of companies led by Excess Insurance Group, owned by America's ITT. The premium depends on the length of the loan and varies from £7.34 for a one-year £100 loan to £9.95 for a five-year £100 loan. On a two-year loan of £1,000 it would be £78.66. The cover includes unemployment, accident and sickness. Payments are made for up to six months if a customer becomes unemployed.

On January 1, the TSB group introduced a pilot scheme to provide customers taking bank mortgages with the option of buying unemployment, accident and sickness cover. This is based on a monthly premium of £5.60 per £100 repayment.

The sole condition which the bank requires before issuing this cover is that the customer has been working for six months. In the case of accident, the insurance company will pay the instalments until the customer recovers but payments will be made for only



six months should the client become unemployed.

So far the TSB group says the response has been warm with around 8 per cent take-up. The pilot test is taking place in the South East and in Wales

6. Maybe customers would be wise to ask how much commission the bank is getting?

in order to determine whether unemployment rates affect customers' response.

William and Glyn's introduced credit insurance in June 1981 and teamed up with one of the few British insurance companies which is active in this field, General Accident. The bank offers accident, sickness and unemployment cover. There is a £58.91 premium on a two-year £1,000 loan. If the customer becomes unemployed the insurance company will pay instalments for up to one year.

Ian Martin, Williams and Glyn's senior marketing officer, says the service is doing quite well and that there is no customer resistance to the concept. He adds, however, that

its appeal is greatest for a limited number of borrowers. However, it was not until last year that the major clearing banks turned their attention towards credit insurance. Barclays Bank introduced its

scheme in September and by the end of January had outstanding monthly liabilities insured against sickness and disability of £2.77m.

Unlike the TSB, Barclays decided not to provide cover against unemployment, saying this would have increased the premiums by nearly a half. As it is the bank provides sickness and disability cover at a cost of £52 on a two-year £1,000 loan. There is no medical examination required. "If you are breathing, then you are in," says Harry Beresford, Barclays' life manager.

Barclays has teamed up with the American insurance company Financial Insurance Group, as it was impressed by the group's speed and

efficiency. "FIG was light years ahead of most of the British companies. One UK company was talking of hiring a staff, wrestle tables and special suit to deal with the business," says Beresford.

The latest entrant into the field is Midland Bank, which is working with General Accident to provide insurance against sickness, accident and unemployment for customers taking personal loans. The unemployment cover extends to one year's repayments. The premium is £54 on a two-year £1,000 loan.

Few UK insurance companies seem keen to write this type of business. One underwriter expressed the fear that by doing so the insurance company was simply protecting the bank against making poor lending decisions. He suggests that some bank managers may insist that customers take out insurance in order to give themselves peace of mind rather than to protect customers.

Another underwriter suggests that the claims experience has not been too happy in the past 18 months with growing unemployment. Each insurance company sets its rates by assessing the overall risks for the banks' customers but in fact claims have been magnified since only those in high risk jobs have tended to buy the insurance.

From the customers' point of view the premiums on personal loans are rather hefty and no choice of insurer is given. Maybe customers would be wise to ask how much commission the bank is getting. In contrast, cover on mortgage repayments is much more reasonable and has almost universal appeal.

At the moment less than 5 per cent of non-mortgage credit transactions are covered by credit insurance according to Finance Insurance Marketing Services, part of the Edward Lumley Group, and an intermediary which has specialised in this area.

With no sign of the recession lifting but consumer loans buoyant the financial institutions are likely to look with increasing favour at any way of lessening their bad debts. If the UK insurance companies are unwilling to fill the gap their American brethren will probably do so.

Non-taxpayer's gift

I wish to allocate some money to which I can add from time to time for the present maintenance and future education of my grandchildren, now aged two and three.

I cannot tie myself to a Deed of Covenant, and in any event there appears to be no point in this as I do not pay income tax and it could not be reclaimed I presume.

I propose to open a Deposit Account in the name of the children to be operated by their parents, so that if they find it necessary, they can withdraw the interest, tax free, I hope, to use for the children's benefit—the capital and any interest not to be used to be retained until the children come of age or until fees for their education are required. Would this interest have to be declared to the Inland Revenue as the children's income?

The simplest thing would be to write cheques in favour of each child, and to send them to their parents with a covering letter (which should be retained for production to the Inland Revenue if need be). Their parents can then open a deposit account for each child. It is crucial that (a) the cheques are not made out to the children's parents and (b) the deposit accounts are never credited with money given to the children by either of their parents. Separate deposit accounts can, of course, be opened to receive pocket money etc provided by their parents, if they wish.

Withdrawal of an offer

The subscription list, for Bristol shares opened on November 19 1982, on November 12 I completed the application form for 2,000 shares, wrote a cheque out, and left an addressed envelope on my dressing table. After reading the adverse Press comments, during that weekend I changed my mind, but didn't destroy the envelope and contents.

On the Monday evening my wife, without my knowledge, posted (2nd class) the envelope. Realising what had happened I immediately wrote (1st class) same post, withdrawing my acceptance.

The registrar of the receiving bank refused to accept my withdrawal as having any legal effect since the application states quite clearly it will become binding on receipt. My attitude was that my acceptance

to their offer was withdrawn prior to the acceptance being communicated to them. What is the legal position?

If it is accepted, or you can establish, that your letter of withdrawal was received before the letter of acceptance, and especially if the former explained that the latter was a mistake, we think you have a strong case for claiming that there is no contract, on the ground that there was no consensus ad idem.

Taxation of a bill

Could you please tell me the situation with reference to the application by a client for the Taxation of a solicitor's bill by Taxing Master of the High Court. Could you tell us the cost to the client? Would he have to lodge a sum of money before the taxation could go ahead and if so how much? How long would it take? What is the time limit allowed after a bill has been paid, in which the client can apply for taxation? What is the time limit for bringing an action for negligence against a solicitor and from when does it start? Is it from when the

negligence occurred, or when it was discovered?

The costs are payable by the client unless more than one-fifth of the bill is taxed off. Security for costs may be ordered where the application is made more than one month after delivery of the bill. We cannot estimate either the costs or any likely security. Taxation is likely to take some months. Taxation may be applied for up to 12 months after delivery of the bill or payment of the bill. The time limit for a negligence claim is six years from the date when the negligence occurred or from the date when damage caused by the negligence occurred (whether or not it was then discoverable).

A lost deed case

We were interested to read the answer under A lost deed case January 8, regarding the procedure to be adopted where a conveyance which forms part of the title to property is missing. The suggestion was that if the land was unregistered, the solicitors should be required to register the document as a "lost deed"

Small estate and small income

Under the will of an elderly relative, the bulk of the small estate is to be divided into three equal parts and invested. The income from each part is payable to a named beneficiary, with the capital remaining going to a designated charity. As the charity concerned is a medical research fund, it is possible that in 30 or 40 years time the charity may no longer exist, at least in its present form and purpose.

The arrangement seems unsatisfactory and complex for a small estate and a small income; and the structure limits and benefit both to the immediate beneficiaries and to the charity. The executors/trustees—one a solicitor the other the deceased's brother—are both nearly 80. One, the brother, is a beneficiary under the above arrangement. The two other beneficiaries are much younger, 31 and 35.

(1) As the two younger beneficiaries are much younger than the two executors/trustees, can they be appointed as trustees now as regards the

administration of the funds from which they benefit? Or must such appointments await the death (retirement) of one of the present trustees?

(2) The trustees appear to have complete discretion as regards the investment policy of the funds. Does this mean that the investment decisions can be made to maximise income, even though this might partly or completely deplete the capital invested? What happens if there is a disagreement about investment policy?

(3) For the younger beneficiaries, the arrangement might run for 40 years before the capital reverts to the charity. The administration costs over this period are likely to be substantial and the value of the capital eventually handed over to the charity will be severely depleted by inflation (and by the compounding effects of an income-priority investment policy). Would it therefore be possible instead effectively to wind up the estate by payment to the charity of an actually-estimated amount of

No legal responsibility can be accepted by the Financial Times for the answers given in these columns. All inquiries will be answered by post as soon as possible.

FINANCE AND THE FAMILY

BY OUR LEGAL STAFF

case at his expense. A similar case has been referred to us although the missing conveyance in question has become, since the 1969 Act, a pre-root document and so would not appear in any way to hamper the present owner's sale of the property. Could you elaborate slightly on the reply as we assume that your reference to registering the document as a "lost deed" case refers to the individual solicitor's records, and not to any proposed registration with the Land Registry, which we understand to be impossible? We had in mind the discretion vested in the Chief Land Registrar to register a title; even to a non-compulsory area, where the title deeds have been lost. Normally this is restricted to the loss of all the title deeds because a single lost deed may be reconstructed, see Ruff & Roper, Registered Conveyancing pp 182 and 206.

1—Appointments of new trustees may be made oow if the existing trustees wish to adopt that course.

2—Although there is complete discretion, it is the duty of trustees to act fairly between life tenant(s) and remainderman, and therefore they should not maximise income wholly to the detriment of capital. A disagreement between the trustees would in practice mean that the funds would remain in their current state of investment. An application to the court for directions could be made if it could be shown that the present position plainly favoured one rather than the other to an extravagant extent. 3—It would be necessary to get the charity to agree if you are to terminate the trust early. This could be done at relatively little expense, but the trustees of the charity might require to have any such arrangement sanctioned by the court on behalf of the charitable beneficiaries. This would be a matter for the charity to consider.



ELECTRA RISK CAPITAL PLC.

Issue of Master Shares
in the Electra Risk Capital II Fund
at £2,500 each

Each Master Share will, when invested, represent a series of personal investments in new businesses, under arrangements designed to qualify the holder for income tax relief under the Government's Business Start Up Scheme.

Investments (in the UK only) will be in new businesses and in companies which have been trading for less than 5 years. These will operate in a wide range of manufacturing and service industries, particularly those involving the development of products and the exploitation of technology.

The advantages to the investor are:-

1. Investment in companies with good growth prospects.
2. Tax relief against income on amounts invested.
3. Spread of investments and consequent reduction of risk.
4. The services of professional and specialist management.

The Master Shares comprise an investment fund approved by the Board of Inland Revenue under Section 66(2) of the Finance Act 1981.

Before deciding to proceed with an application for Master Shares, you are strongly advised to take financial advice (e.g. from a stockbroker, accountant, solicitor, bank manager, etc.), taking account of the special risks involved and your own financial circumstances and tax position.

Full details are contained in the prospectus, copies of which (with application forms) are available through your stockbroker and from:-

National Westminster Bank PLC,
New Issues Department,
P.O. Box 79, Drapers Gardens,
12 Throgmorton Avenue, London, EC2P 2BD.

Electra Risk Capital PLC,
Electra House, Temple Place,
Victoria Embankment, London, WC2R 3HP
Telephone: 01-836 7766

If you require a copy by post, please complete the coupon and send it to Electra Risk Capital PLC, at the above address.

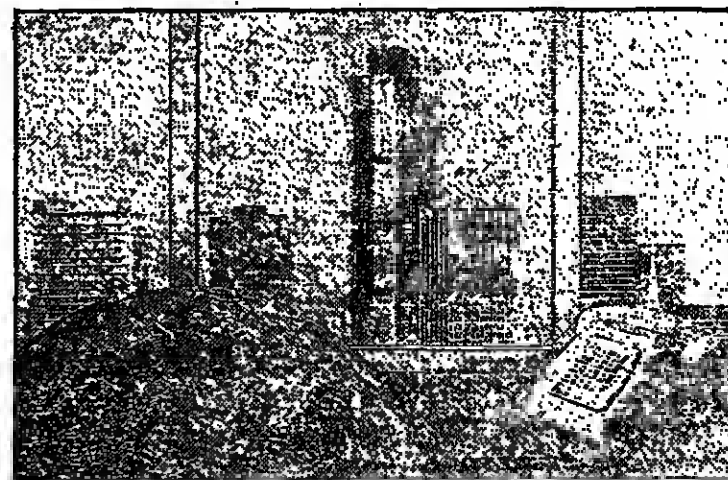
Please send me a copy of the
Electra Risk Capital II Fund prospectus

Name

Address

Postcode

The Mercury approach to unit trusts.



applying the global view
to the local investment.

Investment management is nowadays very much an international business. Events in one of the world's stock markets can have dramatic repercussions in the others and it is important, even when managing a fund specialising in one specific market, to have access to investment expertise on a world-wide basis.

It is just this expertise that is offered by Mercury Fund Managers. Mercury is part of S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd., which is responsible for over £3,500 million of funds invested in the UK and overseas and which, as one of the UK's largest and most consistently successful international fund managers, is in constant contact with markets around the world.

With all our teams based in London, at the centre of the world's financial networks, the results of our analysis of international markets and currency projections are constantly available to our fund managers.

This produces a system of investment management which backs the individual fund manager with in-house research on economic

trends, currencies and interest rates—as well as on companies and sectors—while making him responsible for sifting this advice and for the selection of individual shares.

The result is a combination of coherent strategic thinking and flexibility in its application to the purchases of individual shares that, we believe, provides the basis of our consistent long-term success.

If you feel that you could benefit from this professional approach, you should consider the Mercury range of unit trusts:

Mercury American Growth Fund
Mercury General Fund
Mercury Gilt Fund
Mercury Income and Recovery Fund
Mercury International Fund
Mercury Exempt Fund

For full details of these funds, and our other investment services, contact Peter Rees at Mercury Fund Managers Ltd., St. Albans House, Goldsmith Street, London EC2P 2DL (telephone 01-600 4555).

The Mercury approach. It pays.

Mercury Fund Managers—part of S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.

Member of the Unit Trust Association.

the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are illiterate has increased from 1.2 billion to 1.5 billion. The number of illiterate people in the world is projected to increase to 1.7 billion by the year 2015. The number of illiterate people in the world is projected to increase to 1.7 billion by the year 2015.

YOUR SAVINGS AND INVESTMENTS-3

Westminster Assurance's package for retirement: Eric Short reports

A new scheme for boosting your pension

A PERSONAL pension contract that provides a pension plus a tax-free cash sum at retirement without costing the investor anything and for higher rate taxpayers may even boost their immediate net income—sounds suspiciously like another product from an unknown off-shore life company investing in highly speculative ventures.

But the City of Westminster Assurance is now located at Milton Keynes in the heart of England, and is subject to the control of the relevant UK authorities. Its latest product, the Guaranteed Pension Bond, a single premium pension scheme, offers the benefits described above, with investment being in gilts. The scheme has been approved by the Superannuation Funds Office (SFO) of the Inland Revenue.

So how does Westminster Assurance, the marketing name adopted by the company, offer this latest version of pound notes for 50p pieces? Simply by using the normal tax concessions available on personal pension contracts together with the ultimate in loanbacks—an interest-free loan.

The scheme works as follows:

- The investor pays the gross premium under the Bond to Westminster Assurance, claiming tax relief at his top rate.
- The investor exercises at outset the loan facility under the bond, entitled, the Self-Made Cash Restorer. This loan of up to 70 per cent of the gross

HOW THE GUARANTEED PENSION BOND OPERATES			
MAN AGED 40 with net earnings of £40,000 a year. Selected retirement age 70.		MAN AGED 34 with net earnings of £16,000 a year. Selected retirement age 65.	
Gross pension contribution 17½% of £40,000	7,000	Gross pension contribution 17½% of £16,000	2,800
less tax relief at 50%	4,200	less tax relief at 30%	840
net cost of contribution	2,800	net cost of contribution	1,960
add back Cash Restorer 70% of £7,000	4,900	add back Cash Restorer 70% of £2,800	1,960
increase in net income	2,100	net cost to investor	Nil
Benefits at age 70		Benefits at age 65	
Guaranteed cash sum	6,000	Guaranteed cash sum	2,841
less loan repaid	4,900	less loan repaid	1,960
tax free cash sum	1,100	tax free cash sum	881
guaranteed pension per annum	2,002	guaranteed pension per annum	688

premium, is both interest free and unsecured, so that no assets have to be put up as collateral. The facility is automatic so there is no enquiry into the status of the borrower or the purpose of the loan.

This loan boosts the investor's net income for the year, the effect being shown in the tables. If the investor is paying basic rate tax only, the loan is sufficient to offset the net contribution. But if he is paying higher rate tax, it actually boosts the net income for the year.

Part of the premium is used to buy a single premium temporary assurance to repay the loan should the investor die before retirement. The remainder is invested in the Pension Bond—a non-profit contract. This species had until now virtually disappeared, but Westminster Assurance has revived it, since it needs the full guarantee of the cash sum at retirement.

At retirement, the investor receives his tax free cash sum, from which he repays the loan, together with the pension.

These benefits have cost him nothing.

It is obvious that the key to the whole scheme is the Cash Restorer—the interest free loan. This has been the philosopher's stone in many life assurance tax avoidance schemes, such as second hand bonds. The Revenue has clamped down on the use of interest free loans on life assurance schemes.

The SFO is a fairly autonomous unit within the Revenue, but it is also well aware of the existence of interest free loans. Indeed, in its Memorandum 58 on self-administered executive pension schemes, it insisted that any loanbacks to the parent company had to be on commercial terms. However, it has approved this contract.

Under this scheme, Westminster Assurance's actuary, Nigel Elliott, has calculated the benefits per £1,000 contribution on the basis that £700 will be invested in the interest-free loan, with only the remainder—less a deduction for expenses and life cover—invested in gilts and producing the investment growth to retirement.

The contract, as a means of providing the self-employed with an adequate pension, is far from efficient, as the company itself admits. Relating to the examples in the table, the 40-year-old man buying a with-profit contract from Equitable Life Assurance would get a projected cash sum at retirement of £24,905 plus a projected pension of £8,102 per annum. The 34-year-old man for his contribution would get a projected cash sum of £9,473 and a projected pension of £3,155 per annum. Both quotations assume current bonus rates.

So it would appear that the main purpose of the new scheme is to enable the self-employed to cut back on their tax bill: that is tax avoidance. Westminster Assurance emphasises that this plan is not a main pension provider. The scheme gives investors the option of taking the loan and of repaying at any time. But that is solely to ensure the scheme qualifies for ease of administration. Nigel Elliott says that the bond will not be processed unless the loan is taken and investors will be discouraged from early repayment.

The company expects that this bond will be taken out on top of a regular premium personal pension policy, using up the tax allowances that would otherwise lapse.

But the company markets its products through full time intermediaries who are not noted for reference when it comes to promoting tax avoidance.

For more pension plans are sold on the tax savings elements than on the actual pension benefits. However, the commission paid is only 3 per cent, whereas a 25-year regular premium plan pays 50 per cent of the first annual premium. So intermediaries are unlikely to be tempted to sell this new bond except as a top-up arrangement.

The scheme has two other major drawbacks. In order to function, the low amount effectively invested has to grow sufficiently to be able to repay the high amount of the loan. This requires both time and a high yield on the investments. Thus the investor has to select a retirement age around 50 years in the future to take the maximum 70 per cent loan. For higher ages the maximum loan is reduced, cutting back on the tax efficiency.

The benefits are very sensitive to interest rates and gilt yield changes. Nigel Elliott admits that a substantial fall in interest rates could lower benefits on new schemes below the limit to make this scheme viable, at least for basic rate taxpayers. But there would be ample warning of any change in the scheme.

Investing in Eric the Second and looking back on Eric the First

ERIC II is not a sequel to some cinema box office blockbuster, but it is the nearest thing to a repeat in the world of investment funds.

As predicted last week, Electra Investment Trust is wading in with a second risk capital fund though at this early stage it can only demonstrate the popularity, not the performance, of its first such fund.

It was in November 1981 that Eric I, as it is affectionately known, was born to give investors the taste of an Electra House style managed fund under the Government's Business Start Up Scheme. Amid the growing enthusiasm for venture capital opportunities, it was only the advantages to the high taxpayer that attracted £8.7m.

To date almost £5.5m of this has been invested, some 40 per cent going into pure new ventures and the rest going into concerns that have been trading for up to five years, the qualifying limit for the scheme.

This lack of track record highlights how such funds contrast with the unit and investment trust portfolios of established companies. "High risk—high return" is the name of the game in venture capital and the hope is that the inevitable bad eggs will be more than offset by good ones.

A year is too short a time for Electra to be able to identify the winners from the losers in Eric I with any certainty. By chance, the first investment, a half share of communication system consultants Eosys costing £2m, has turned in the best



Mr Michael Stoddard

performance so far. But among the 24 companies in the portfolio one is reaching a crisis point.

As this particular project still holds promise Electra is likely to make a further cash injection. Some £750,000 is being put aside for situations where the embryonic stage of new concerns lasts longer than normal. In the U.S. venture capital market five or six successive cash injections are not uncommon.

While outright losers must be expected, much effort goes into reducing the risk. For this reason successful venture capital fund management requires far more executive time than the supervision of other investment portfolios. Electra currently has eight managers

managers would like to see more professional intermediaries referring projects.

Though Eric II operates on a similar basis to its predecessors recent changes to the Government's Start Up scheme have increased the tax advantages for investors. This means that a 75 per cent tax payer stands to make an overall nominal gain of treble his or her net cost, even if the value of the original investment in a fund remains unchanged.

Electra is seeking to raise up to £10m in Eric II by issuing master shares of £2,500 each and already has commitments for some £2.5m. As with all the schemes the shares must be held for at least five years to qualify for the tax concessions but the maximum investment for tax relief has been raised from £10,000 to £20,000.

The aim of Eric is capital growth but the length of time the investment must be "locked in" to qualify for the tax relief makes it unsuitable for the active investor. For those who are prepared, or able, to wait there could be significant rewards in these funds should they contain the odd high flyer.

If Eric II follows the experience of other follow-up risk capital funds then it may not attract as much money as its younger brother. Electra has sought to prepare for such an eventuality by lifting the total that the managers can invest in any one company from 10 per cent to 15 per cent of the fund.

Christopher Cameron-Jones



New from Henderson.

ORIENTAL KNOWHOW

Japan has one of the most dynamic capitalist economies in the world. Its stock market is second in size only to Wall Street. And it is a market in which we in the £1 billion Henderson Group have particular expertise and a consistent track record.

The most important key to our success in the Far East is in-depth local knowledge. The combination of the Henderson Baring research teams in Hong Kong and Japanese staff in Tokyo places us in a prime position to establish direct links with Japanese companies, and tap sources of information not generally available to western investors.

SPECIAL SITUATIONS

In this way, our representatives in Tokyo and Hong Kong often identify attractive investment opportunities which may not lend themselves to inclusion in our mainstream investment funds. These 'special situations' include smaller companies in new and emerging high-growth areas, undervalued asset situations, takeover possibilities and new issues. We recently introduced the new Henderson Japan Special Situations Trust specifically to provide a vehicle for investors seeking to participate in the growth of Japanese companies of this type.

The portfolio is managed by Henderson Baring Management Ltd. from the Far East, and initially is being invested in relatively few securities.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Should the unit offer price move by more than 2½% during the fixed period the offer will be closed and units will be allocated at the price ruling on receipt of application.

An initial charge of 54% on the assets (equivalent to 5% of the issue price) is made by the managers when units are issued. Out of the initial charge, the managers pay remuneration to qualified intermediaries; rates are available on request. The Trust Deed provides for an annual charge of 1¼% (plus VAT) of the value of the Trust to be deducted from the gross income to cover administration costs.

Distributions of income will be paid on 15th November each year. The first distribution will be paid on 15th November 1983.

Contract notes will be issued and unit certificates will be provided within eight weeks of payment. To sell units endorse your unit certificate and send it to the managers. Payment will normally be made within seven working days.

Unit Trusts are not subject to capital gains tax; moreover a unit holder will not pay tax on a disposal of units unless the total realised gains from all sources in any tax year amount to more than £5,000.

Prices and yield can be found daily in the Financial Times.

Trustee: Midland Bank Trust Company Ltd. Managers: Henderson Unit Trust Management Limited, 11 Austin Friars, London EC2N 2ED (Registered Office) Reg No. 856263.

A member of the Unit Trust Association.

The Henderson Group also manages Pension Funds, Investment Trusts, Off-shore Funds, Exempt Trusts and Private Client Portfolios.

concentrating on such areas as transport, mining, food distribution and sales, machinery and chemicals. The new trust is designed to complement the existing Henderson Japan Trust with its technological bias. Since its objective is above-average capital growth, the level of yield will be low—initially an estimated 0.10% pa gross.

APPROPRIATE TIMING

We believe there are a number of particularly sound reasons for investing in Japan today:

- * Despite recent currency movements the Yen is still undervalued against the Pound and the Dollar.
- * Inflation in Japan is below 2%.
- * The Japanese economy is expected to grow at a much faster rate over the next few years than the UK or US.
- * 85% of what Japan produces is sold to its huge and developing home market, which gives a degree of insulation from world economic problems.

Investors are reminded, however, that the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

FIXED PRICE OFFER

Until 25th February 1983, units in this new Trust may be purchased at the fixed offer price of £2.3p. You can invest simply by returning the application form below with your remittance, either direct or through your professional advisor.

LAWSON HIGH YIELD FUND

11.1% GROSS YIELD

INVEST BY 20TH APRIL FOR SECOND QUARTERLY DISTRIBUTION ON 15.6.83.

The objectives of the LAWSON HIGH YIELD FUND are to provide growth in income and capital by investing in high yielding situations both in the UK and overseas. Our strategy is to invest for maximum income, commensurate with safety.

PORTFOLIO

High Yield Ordinary Shares/Investment Trust Income Shares/Preference Shares.

In our opinion inflation will continue to fall, thus putting down interest rates and therefore a wise investment for 1983 is a high yield unit trust, combining equities and fixed interest stocks in the one portfolio. Those investing in LAWSON HIGH YIELD FUND at to-day's price can secure a compelling high income, paid monthly. A fall in interest rates should also produce the additional benefit of a rise in the price of units.

Fixed Price Offer Closing Mon 28th Feb 1983
Income Units 20.9p Accumulation Units 21.1p
(or at daily price if lower)

LAWSON AUSTRALIAN & PACIFIC FUND

GROWTH

Following on the success of Lawson High Yield Fund which has already grown to around £14 million since the launch in Nov. 1982 we now offer investors the chance for Capital Growth from the depressed Australian Markets. Down Under is by no means down and out. It is our opinion that the current low level of these markets offers an unparalleled opportunity to invest now and profit later. Few Market Prices should follow the rising trend set by gold. The vast source of wealth in Australia and the Pacific region, including the West Coast of Canada and America, should materialise in the shape of increased stock market prices.

LAWSON AUSTRALIAN AND PACIFIC FUND

is a new fund set up to aim exclusively at Capital Growth by investing in these markets. We recommend investment in Australia now, before the excitement pushes prices up to overheated and unsustainable levels.

Fixed Price Offer Closing Mon 28th Feb 1983
Accumulation Units 9.3p
(or at daily price if lower)

Henderson Japan Special Situations Trust

To Henderson Unit Trust Management Limited,
Dealing Department, 5 Foregate Road, Hurst,
Brentwood, Essex CM13 1AA. Tel 01 588 3822.

I wish to buy _____ units in the Henderson Japan Special Situations Trust at the fixed price of £2.3p per unit (minimum initial investment £1,000).

I enclose remittance of £ _____ payable to Henderson Unit Trust Management Limited. This offer will close on 25th February 1983 or earlier should the offer price move by more than 2½%.

If there are joint applicants each must sign and attach names and addresses separately.

Henderson. The Investment Managers.

PROPERTY

British homes hold their own in California

BY JUNE FIELD

AS WELL as the "Britain Salutes New York" festivities in April, the British are strong on the U.S. home-front generally. The current issue of one of America's major real estate magazines, *Metropolitan Home*, profiles Habitat chief Sir Terence Conran as "The Emperor of The Everyday," and another feature praises the English Country Look as "a growing infatuation" with roses and eibint.

While in California, where the Queen and Prince Phillip are due to start their visit next Saturday, it is a British property developer who is more than holding his own in the face of a recession that is as deep and ongoing as any we have here.

And it is all rather a nasty shock to the Sunshine State so long promoted as a vast promised land of milk and honey. Many builders have sold off their land, drawn in their horns, and settled down to wait for better times. The days of lattes to ration homes for enthusiastic buyers and "camp-out" (families literally camping out for days around a sales office) in force on my visit in the late 1970s, are no more.

This is why it is all the more extraordinary that British builder Sir Lawrie Barratt

should be doing so well. Barratt American, formed by the acquisition in April 1980 of the American National Housing Corporation in Irvine, for \$12m, and McKeon Construction in San Francisco for \$82m a year later, have achieved it by going ahead with the aggressive marketing methods they use in Britain.

Although, with the recent high interest rates, and the fact that for the first time in many Americans' living memory there is a genuine shortage of money, group chairman Sir Lawrie Barratt admits that "our operations in the U.S. have been a little disappointing. We made a profit in the last year, but the going was tough. To compete in the market place it was necessary to offer large mortgage subsidies creating a considerable overhead."

Their biggest disappointment, strangely, bearing in mind that we always think the wheels of authority grind slowly in Britain, is the length of time taken to get planning permission, particularly for first-time buyer units such as the fully furnished and equipped Studio Solo, a runaway success story when the first were finally built in Fremont, Northern California, in the summer. (On the way are Studio Duo's, the transatlantic equivalent of Studio Two, but with a separate sleep-

ing area.)

Over dinner last week in Irvine, near Newport Beach, in Orange County, the company's California headquarters, Sir Lawrie and former group sales and marketing director John Swanson, 39-year-old Scot now president of Barratt American, expanded on their philosophy: "People have needs and wants—first time buyers need a place to live, second and third time buyers have wants—they want a bigger house in a different location, or a retirement home. We aim to satisfy these requirements by providing a total purchase package, precisely the same as we do in the U.K."

This means utilising similar innovative promotions. Even a helicopter is there, manned by actor Craig Littler instead of Patrick Allen. Part-exchange—almost unheard of in California because most builders cannot cope with a large inventory of homes—is one of the most popular purchasing aids. "Trade Your House In Now" is the command on some of the sale boards on the 33 locations spread from San Francisco to San Diego, taking in the Californian capital, Sacramento, where Barratt apartments for rent have revitalised the downtown area.

The Sacramento rejuvenation is a joint venture with the local authority, on land leased from the state, two blocks from the Capitol Building. Units are also for sale, from \$45,000 for studios, and \$54,500 for one-bedroom accommodation. With the pound currently so low against the dollar, it is difficult and perhaps not fair to equate prices with those here, but as The Sacramento Bee reported when I was there, although the housing is not cheap, it is affordable for many with moderate incomes.

"And we organise the finance," reminds Sir Lawrie, pointing out that this stops a chain of sales building up. Sources of mortgage loans vary. Basically, there is FHA/VA, where the Federal Home Administration and Veterans' Administration insure or guarantee loans, FRMLC (Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation), which is a similar operation, Bond Financing, sponsored by the State of California where the proceeds of the bonds are used to originate



Four-bedroom, three-bathroom house with a central atrium for plants, at Vista Ramon below Mt. Diablo in Northern California. Suitable for permanent, retirement or holiday living, it costs around \$224,800, and Barratt would take your British home in part exchange. Details: Sir Lawrie Barratt, Wingrove House, Ponteland Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE5 3DP, or John Swanson, Barratt American, 26 Executive Park, Suite 280, Irvine, California 92714, USA.



Stockbroker Boyd Jefferies' spectacular house at Laguna Beach, Southern California, perched on a cliff top overlooking the Pacific Ocean. There are 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, gymnasium, sauna, eight-car garage, staff cottage, a tennis court, wine cellar and art gallery. Details: Hall F. Wilkie, Sotheby Parke Bernet Realty, 7210 Beverly Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90036, USA. The price has just been reduced from \$11.5m to \$4.5m to include all the furnishings.

loans to home buyers, and conventional financing through banks, savings and loan associations. Types of loans include 30-year fixed rate mortgages, at currently around 9 to 11 per cent interest, and adjustable and graduated payment mortgages. One prospective English buyer looking round one of the stylish model homes (showhouses), in a well-landscaped village community complete with pool and play-

ground, had moved to the area to work on a short-term contract. He did not want to sell the family home in Liverpool which was profitably let, but was able to buy an American home by putting down 4 per cent of the purchase money and securing mortgage commitments on of income. And someone considering leaving the uncertainties of the micro-chip industry in Northern California's Silicon Valley, could use the swap system in reverse, trading in his Barratt home in

Santa Cruz for one in, say, Milton Keynes in Britain. For a basic location list with approximate prices of British and American properties, write to Sir Lawrie Barratt, Wingrove House, Ponteland Road, Newcastle upon Tyne. Really high-priced properties on the West Coast are almost always financed by the seller rather than an institutional lender, usually over a five to 10 year period, at interest rates substantially below the conventional figures.

CHESS

LEONARD BARNUM

THIRD WORLD nations

have made notable and, to European eyes, surprising advances since they began to take chess seriously in recent years. President Marcos patronage made chess a national sport in the Philippines, which has produced Asia's first grandmaster and world title candidate (E. Torre) as well as the current FIDE President Campomanes. Then the Chinese broke through impressively at the 1978 Olympics when Lin Wen Zhe, a student of Dutch opponent Donner, just a few days after the Netherlands GM had sneeringly questioned how any top European player could genuinely lose to a Chinaman.

The latest countries to make a solid mark at world level are the Arab nations. Here one must enter the caveat that a thousand years ago when chess was still in its ancient form, shatranj, the Arabs were the top team. The son of Harun al-Rashid was the chess patron of his day while later as-Suli became established as the greatest grandmaster and leading theoretician of his time.

Preferred strategy of the ancient Arab school was a flank attack with the king's bishop's pawn (the so-called torrent pawn) often leading the way. Turn on a millenium, and you come to the "First International UAE Festival" held in Dubai last month. The participants were from 14 countries, including Iran (where the Ayatollah has banned chess), Syria, Tunisia, and the ancestral home of chess in India. Tournament favourites were a group of West Germans led by Eric Lobron who had just qualified for the grandmaster title by sharing first prize with Polugaevsky of the USSR in Manila. Lobron, as BBC's Master Game viewers will remember, also triumphed in the international television series.

First prize at Dubai went to Kindermans of West Germany, but the younger UAE representative, Saeed (who starred in several world junior championships) was high on the prize list. Most important of all, another unknown Arab produced an attacking masterpiece against a European to match: Lin Wen Zhe's immortal against Donner.

THE CHINESE IMMORTAL

WHITE: Lin Wen Zhe (China). BLACK: GM J. H. Donner (Holland).

Pie Defence (Dabai 1983). 1 P-K4, P-K5; 2 P-Q4, N-KB3; 3 N-QB3, P-B4; 4 B-E2, B-N3; 5 P-KN4, P-KR7 (better P-QB3); 6 P-KR3, P-B4; 7 P-Q3, Q-Q7 (casting into the attack); 8 P-KR4, P-K5; 9 P-N3, R-P4; 10 R-P4, N-K1; 11 N-Q2; 12 N-P2, N-Q2; 13 Q-N3, B-E2; 14 Q-K4, P-B4; 15 Q-Q7, B-K2; 16 Q-P4, R-K4; 17 B-B3, B-K2; 18 B-B7, B-E2, B-K2; 19 P-N6, B-K2; 20 B-B3, B-K2. White forces mate.

THE ARAB IMMORTAL WHITE: Jassim (UAE). BLACK: GM E. Lobron (West Germany).

Pie Defence (Dubai 1983). 1 P-K4, P-K5; 2 P-Q3, B-N2;

3 P-QB3, P-Q3; 4 P-K5, P-K4; 5 P-K4, P-K5; 6 P-K5, P-K4; 7 P-K4, P-K5; 8 P-K5, P-K4; 9 P-K4, P-K5; 10 P-K5, P-K4; 11 P-K4, P-K5; 12 P-K5, P-K4; 13 P-K4, P-K5; 14 P-K5, P-K4; 15 P-K4, P-K5; 16 P-K5, P-K4; 17 P-K4, P-K5; 18 P-K5, P-K4; 19 P-K4, P-K5; 20 P-K5, P-K4; 21 P-K4, P-K5; 22 P-K5, P-K4; 23 P-K4, P-K5; 24 P-K5, P-K4; 25 P-K4, P-K5; 26 P-K5, P-K4; 27 P-K4, P-K5; 28 P-K5, P-K4; 29 P-K4, P-K5; 30 P-K5, P-K4; 31 P-K4, P-K5; 32 P-K5, P-K4; 33 P-K4, P-K5; 34 P-K5, P-K4; 35 P-K4, P-K5; 36 P-K5, P-K4; 37 P-K4, P-K5; 38 P-K5, P-K4; 39 P-K4, P-K5; 40 P-K5, P-K4; 41 P-K4, P-K5; 42 P-K5, P-K4; 43 P-K4, P-K5; 44 P-K5, P-K4; 45 P-K4, P-K5; 46 P-K5, P-K4; 47 P-K4, P-K5; 48 P-K5, P-K4; 49 P-K4, P-K5; 50 P-K5, P-K4; 51 P-K4, P-K5; 52 P-K5, P-K4; 53 P-K4, P-K5; 54 P-K5, P-K4; 55 P-K4, P-K5; 56 P-K5, P-K4; 57 P-K4, P-K5; 58 P-K5, P-K4; 59 P-K4, P-K5; 60 P-K5, P-K4; 61 P-K4, P-K5; 62 P-K5, P-K4; 63 P-K4, P-K5; 64 P-K5, P-K4; 65 P-K4, P-K5; 66 P-K5, P-K4; 67 P-K4, P-K5; 68 P-K5, P-K4; 69 P-K4, P-K5; 70 P-K5, P-K4; 71 P-K4, P-K5; 72 P-K5, P-K4; 73 P-K4, P-K5; 74 P-K5, P-K4; 75 P-K4, P-K5; 76 P-K5, P-K4; 77 P-K4, P-K5; 78 P-K5, P-K4; 79 P-K4, P-K5; 80 P-K5, P-K4; 81 P-K4, P-K5; 82 P-K5, P-K4; 83 P-K4, P-K5; 84 P-K5, P-K4; 85 P-K4, P-K5; 86 P-K5, P-K4; 87 P-K4, P-K5; 88 P-K5, P-K4; 89 P-K4, P-K5; 90 P-K5, P-K4; 91 P-K4, P-K5; 92 P-K5, P-K4; 93 P-K4, P-K5; 94 P-K5, P-K4; 95 P-K4, P-K5; 96 P-K5, P-K4; 97 P-K4, P-K5; 98 P-K5, P-K4; 99 P-K4, P-K5; 100 P-K5, P-K4; 101 P-K4, P-K5; 102 P-K5, P-K4; 103 P-K4, P-K5; 104 P-K5, P-K4; 105 P-K4, P-K5; 106 P-K5, P-K4; 107 P-K4, P-K5; 108 P-K5, P-K4; 109 P-K4, P-K5; 110 P-K5, P-K4; 111 P-K4, P-K5; 112 P-K5, P-K4; 113 P-K4, P-K5; 114 P-K5, P-K4; 115 P-K4, P-K5; 116 P-K5, P-K4; 117 P-K4, P-K5; 118 P-K5, P-K4; 119 P-K4, P-K5; 120 P-K5, P-K4; 121 P-K4, P-K5; 122 P-K5, P-K4; 123 P-K4, P-K5; 124 P-K5, P-K4; 125 P-K4, P-K5; 126 P-K5, P-K4; 127 P-K4, P-K5; 128 P-K5, P-K4; 129 P-K4, P-K5; 130 P-K5, P-K4; 131 P-K4, P-K5; 132 P-K5, P-K4; 133 P-K4, P-K5; 134 P-K5, P-K4; 135 P-K4, P-K5; 136 P-K5, P-K4; 137 P-K4, P-K5; 138 P-K5, P-K4; 139 P-K4, P-K5; 140 P-K5, P-K4; 141 P-K4, P-K5; 142 P-K5, P-K4; 143 P-K4, P-K5; 144 P-K5, P-K4; 145 P-K4, P-K5; 146 P-K5, P-K4; 147 P-K4, P-K5; 148 P-K5, P-K4; 149 P-K4, P-K5; 150 P-K5, P-K4; 151 P-K4, P-K5; 152 P-K5, P-K4; 153 P-K4, P-K5; 154 P-K5, P-K4; 155 P-K4, P-K5; 156 P-K5, P-K4; 157 P-K4, P-K5; 158 P-K5, P-K4; 159 P-K4, P-K5; 160 P-K5, P-K4; 161 P-K4, P-K5; 162 P-K5, P-K4; 163 P-K4, P-K5; 164 P-K5, P-K4; 165 P-K4, P-K5; 166 P-K5, P-K4; 167 P-K4, P-K5; 168 P-K5, P-K4; 169 P-K4, P-K5; 170 P-K5, P-K4; 171 P-K4, P-K5; 172 P-K5, P-K4; 173 P-K4, P-K5; 174 P-K5, P-K4; 175 P-K4, P-K5; 176 P-K5, P-K4; 177 P-K4, P-K5; 178 P-K5, P-K4; 179 P-K4, P-K5; 180 P-K5, P-K4; 181 P-K4, P-K5; 182 P-K5, P-K4; 183 P-K4, P-K5; 184 P-K5, P-K4; 185 P-K4, P-K5; 186 P-K5, P-K4; 187 P-K4, P-K5; 188 P-K5, P-K4; 189 P-K4, P-K5; 190 P-K5, P-K4; 191 P-K4, P-K5; 192 P-K5, P-K4; 193 P-K4, P-K5; 194 P-K5, P-K4; 195 P-K4, P-K5; 196 P-K5, P-K4; 197 P-K4, P-K5; 198 P-K5, P-K4; 199 P-K4, P-K5; 200 P-K5, P-K4; 201 P-K4, P-K5; 202 P-K5, P-K4; 203 P-K4, P-K5; 204 P-K5, P-K4; 205 P-K4, P-K5; 206 P-K5, P-K4; 207 P-K4, P-K5; 208 P-K5, P-K4; 209 P-K4, P-K5; 210 P-K5, P-K4; 211 P-K4, P-K5; 212 P-K5, P-K4; 213 P-K4, P-K5; 214 P-K5, P-K4; 215 P-K4, P-K5; 216 P-K5, P-K4; 217 P-K4, P-K5; 218 P-K5, P-K4; 219 P-K4, P-K5; 220 P-K5, P-K4; 221 P-K4, P-K5; 222 P-K5, P-K4; 223 P-K4, P-K5; 224 P-K5, P-K4; 225 P-K4, P-K5; 226 P-K5, P-K4; 227 P-K4, P-K5; 228 P-K5, P-K4; 229 P-K4, P-K5; 230 P-K5, P-K4; 231 P-K4, P-K5; 232 P-K5, P-K4; 233 P-K4, P-K5; 234 P-K5, P-K4; 235 P-K4, P-K5; 236 P-K5, P-K4; 237 P-K4, P-K5; 238 P-K5, P-K4; 239 P-K4, P-K5; 240 P-K5, P-K4; 241 P-K4, P-K5; 242 P-K5, P-K4; 243 P-K4, P-K5; 244 P-K5, P-K4; 245 P-K4, P-K5; 246 P-K5, P-K4; 247 P-K4, P-K5; 248 P-K5, P-K4; 249 P-K4, P-K5; 250 P-K5, P-K4; 251 P-K4, P-K5; 252 P-K5, P-K4; 253 P-K4, P-K5; 254 P-K5, P-K4; 255 P-K4, P-K5; 256 P-K5, P-K4; 257 P-K4, P-K5; 258 P-K5, P-K4; 259 P-K4, P-K5; 260 P-K5, P-K4; 261 P-K4, P-K5; 262 P-K5, P-K4; 263 P-K4, P-K5; 264 P-K5, P-K4; 265 P-K4, P-K5; 266 P-K5, P-K4; 267 P-K4, P-K5; 268 P-K5, P-K4; 269 P-K4, P-K5; 270 P-K5, P-K4; 271 P-K4, P-K5; 272 P-K5, P-K4; 273 P-K4, P-K5; 274 P-K5, P-K4; 275 P-K4, P-K5; 276 P-K5, P-K4; 277 P-K4, P-K5; 278 P-K5, P-K4; 279 P-K4, P-K5; 280 P-K5, P-K4; 281 P-K4, P-K5; 282 P-K5, P-K4; 283 P-K4, P-K5; 284 P-K5, P-K4; 285 P-K4, P-K5; 286 P-K5, P-K4; 287 P-K4, P-K5; 288 P-K5, P-K4; 289 P-K4, P-K5; 290 P-K5, P-K4; 291 P-K4, P-K5; 292 P-K5, P-K4; 293 P-K4, P-K5; 294 P-K5, P-K4; 295 P-K4, P-K5; 296 P-K5, P-K4; 297 P-K4, P-K5; 298 P-K5, P-K4; 299 P-K4, P-K5; 300 P-K5, P-K4; 301 P-K4, P-K5; 302 P-K5, P-K4; 303 P-K4, P-K5; 304 P-K5, P-K4; 305 P-K4, P-K5; 306 P-K5, P-K4; 307 P-K4, P-K5; 308 P-K5, P-K4; 309 P-K4, P-K5; 310 P-K5, P-K4; 311 P-K4, P-K5; 312 P-K5, P-K4; 313 P-K4, P-K5; 314 P-K5, P-K4; 315 P-K4, P-K5; 316 P-K5, P-K4; 317 P-K4, P-K5; 318 P-K5, P-K4; 319 P-K4, P-K5; 320 P-K5, P-K4; 321 P-K4, P-K5; 322 P-K5, P-K4; 323 P-K4, P-K5; 324 P-K5, P-K4; 325 P-K4, P-K5; 326 P-K5, P-K4; 327 P-K4, P-K5; 328 P-K5, P-K4; 329 P-K4, P-K5; 330 P-K5, P-K4; 331 P-K4, P-K5; 332 P-K5, P-K4; 333 P-K4, P-K5; 334 P-K5, P-K4; 335 P-K4, P-K5; 336 P-K5, P-K4; 337 P-K4, P-K5; 338 P-K5, P-K4; 339 P-K4, P-K5; 340 P-K5, P-K4; 341 P-K4, P-K5; 342 P-K5, P-K4; 343 P-K4, P-K5; 344 P-K5, P-K4; 345 P-K4, P-K5; 346 P-K5, P-K4; 347 P-K4, P-K5; 348 P-K5, P-K4; 349 P-K4, P-K5; 350 P-K5, P-K4; 351 P-K4, P-K5; 352 P-K5, P-K4; 353 P-K4, P-K5; 354 P-K5, P-K4; 355 P-K4, P-K5; 356 P-K5, P-K4; 357 P-K4, P-K5; 358 P-K5, P-K4; 359 P-K4, P-K5; 360 P-K5, P-K4; 361 P-K4, P-K5; 362 P-K5, P-K4; 363 P-K4, P-K5; 364 P-K5, P-K4; 365 P-K4, P-K5; 366 P-K5, P-K4; 367 P-K4, P-K5; 368 P-K5, P-K4; 369 P-K4, P-K5; 370 P-K5, P-K4; 371 P-K4, P-K5; 372 P-K5, P-K4; 373 P-K4, P-K5; 374 P-K5, P-K4; 375 P-K4, P-K5; 376 P-K5, P-K4; 377 P-K4, P-K5; 378 P-K5, P-K4; 379 P-K4, P-K5; 380 P-K5, P-K4; 381 P-K4, P-K5; 382 P-K5, P-K4; 383 P-K4, P-K5; 384 P-K5, P-K4; 385 P-K4, P-K5; 386 P-K5, P-K4; 387 P-K4, P-K5; 388 P-K5, P-K4; 389 P-K4, P-K5; 390 P-K5, P-K4; 391 P-K4, P-K5; 392 P-K5, P-K4; 393 P-K4, P-K5; 394 P-K5, P-K4; 395 P-K4, P-K5; 396 P-K5, P-K4; 397 P-K4, P-K5; 398 P-K5, P-K4; 399 P-K4, P-K5; 400 P-K5, P-K4; 401 P-K4, P-K5; 402 P-K5, P-K4; 403 P-K4, P-K5; 404 P-K5, P-K4; 405 P-K4, P-K5; 406 P-K5, P-K4; 407 P-K4, P-K5; 408 P-K5, P-K4; 409 P-K4, P-K5; 410 P-K5, P-K4; 411 P-K4, P-K5; 412 P-K5, P-K4; 413 P-K4, P-K5; 414 P-K5, P-K4; 415 P-K4, P-K5; 416 P-K5, P-K4; 417 P-K4, P-K5; 418 P-K5, P-K4; 419 P-K4, P-K5; 420 P-K5, P-K4; 421 P-K4, P-K5; 422 P-K5, P-K4; 423 P-K4, P-K5; 424 P-K5, P-K4; 425 P-K4, P-K5; 426 P-K5, P-K4; 427 P-K4, P-K5; 428 P-K5, P-K4; 429 P-K4, P-K5; 430 P-K5, P-K4; 431 P-K4, P-K5; 432 P-K5, P-K4; 433 P-K4, P-K5; 434 P-K5, P-K4; 435 P-K4, P-K5; 436 P-K5, P-K4; 437 P-K4, P-K5; 438 P-K5, P-K4; 439 P-K4, P-K5; 440 P-K5, P-K4; 441 P-K4, P-K5; 442 P-K5, P-K4; 443 P-K4, P-K5; 444 P-K5, P-K4; 445 P-K4, P-K5; 446 P-K5, P-K4; 447 P-K4, P-K5; 448 P-K5, P-K4; 449 P-K4, P-K5; 450 P-K5, P-K4; 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Following your stars

MY FIRST MCC tour to Australia lasted for more than six months with the journey by ship to Fremantle taking one of them. It was a delightful method of travel, rather like living in a high-class, mobile pub with a swimming pool.

This took place before the age of rapid air flights and cheap package holidays so that the handful of supporters who came out from England to see us play had to have both money and time.

They were nearly all retired cricket "crazy" businessmen making the trip of their lifetime which had been planned with meticulous care over several years. The players came to know them well and a happy relationship was established without it ever becoming too close.

It is an entirely different picture these days. This winter, at least 42 cricket holidays in Australia were marketed by 14 travel companies and organisations, which proved something of an overkill as only about a third literally took off. However it does indicate that cricket tours have become a small, specialised and increasingly important part of the travel business.

Over the last 15 years group and charter holidays combined with comparatively cheap air travel have given ordinary cricket fans the chance to see Tests overseas. Nevertheless a visit to Australia involving a

TRAVEL

TREVOR BAILEY

night of at least 24 hours—though relatively inexpensive—still costs a lot of money, while anyone travelling that distance needs to stay at the very least for three weeks to obtain real value.

The duration, itinerary and accommodation of tours to Australia this winter varied considerably. Some were organised by commercial firms and others privately, like the Cricketers Club of London. Although prices differed, a three-week stay in a top-class hotel including full breakfast and admission to matches would cost about £1,700 per person while a single room was an alarming £27 per night extra.

My tour was arranged by the former England cricketer Fred Rumsey, now running a travel firm specialising in sporting holidays. It was specifically designed to include a little more than just Test and One Day international cricket. My party was sold on Sydney, which has so much variety to offer, while the Sebel Town House must rate as one of the best hotels in the country because of the quality of service.

The Commonwealth Games had much to do with the many

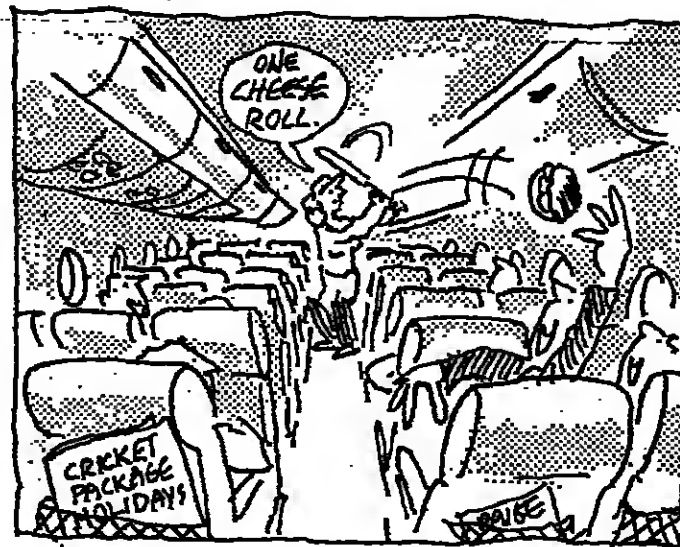
improvements noticeable in Brisbane, while the Gold Coast, the playground of Australia with its vast surfing beach is a revelation.

The town contains rather more estate agents than Hong Kong, has camera shops, but why a land with so much space should build so many high-rise apartments is strange and must be largely due to a national fixation about having a view of water for which Australians are prepared to pay a vast sum.

My own interest in sports travel really began in the late 1960s, when I was a footballer in Europe for the Financial Times and I discovered how much cheaper it was to go on a charter flight with 48 Travel.

These football "excursions" were admirably organised by David Dwyer, now managing director of Americana Sports Travel, who had been appointed by British Olympic Association to handle the 1984 Olympics. As a result of our association David asked me to take a party on a fairly ambitious cricket tour which included Hong Kong, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Los Angeles.

It proved an unforgettable and rewarding experience. Packed with memories, including that of my middle-aged Midlander who not only insisted on sitting on The Hill at Sydney while Ray Illingworth was winning the Ashes, but also planted a Union Jack. When he rejoined the group with a cut eye from a flying beer can I inquired if he was



all right and was greeted with the happy "Scars of war my son."

Two hours out of Fiji the captain of the Jumbo informed us that he was returning to the airport and it did not need an engineer to deduce there would be a considerable delay.

The following morning expansive Americans with even more expensive credit cards and a seemingly unlimited supply of dollars besieged the airport staff with tales of disaster if they failed to get on the next flight.

Not for the first time it helped to have played cricket because though I had no credit cards and little money—just a group of Brits trying to get home—I discovered a little Indian who was interested in cricket. Once we had discussed

the series, we immediately made all the necessary arrangements.

Having spent so much of my life looking after cricketers, I found cricket supporters a dream. They are invariably punctual, reliable and civilised. They are very special people held together by an absorbing love for a great game and after my first adventure I had no hesitation in hosting numerous other groups on cricket tours to the Caribbean and Australia.

I prefer taking them to Barbados because apart from the flight there being so much shorter there is less travelling. While the hotels, like my personal favourite, Tamarine Cove, are ideal for a beach holiday well away from the city and yet within easy reach of the Test grounds.

Poshest of all Renault 5s

POWER steering on a tiny little car like the Renault 5, which is only a few inches longer and a shade over a hundredweight heavier than a Metro? It sounds like sheer self-indulgence. As decadent as one of those push button things that let you change channels on TV without leaving your armchair.

It took me about a day to find infra-red remote control on my new TV a boon and a blessing, and only five minutes to be sold on power steering on the Renault 5TX I drove for 300 mainly urban miles last week. Really, there can't be a nicer little hatchback for zipping around the West End in. It accelerates well in the lower gears and the hydraulic help on the steering makes it infinitely manageable, aided by excellent vision front and back and plastic bumpers that allow one to slip into impossible spaces by feel without causing any aggravation.

The cloth covered throneers are like club armchairs. They lift forward to give access to the rather cramped rear seats and the seat belts slide conveniently out of the way on steel bars down by the sills. Unopposing a cover over the boot made labrador space and the sill was no problem for her to leap.

The 5TX is the poshest of all Renault 5s—Rocouh call it a miniature limousine—and it has a lot more sound dampening material so it is executive quiet on the motorway at 70-75 mph in fifth, with another 20 mph in hand, downhill with a following wind. Top is high enough (about 22 mph per 1,000 rpm) to let speed fall off perceptibly on a gradient. I returned 33 mpg on mainly short runs in heavy traffic, some risk motorway driving and despite leaving the engine to warm up on choke while I was scraping all the ice and snow off the windows.

What would make the 5TX even better as a city centre car is Renault's electronically controlled automatic transmission. At the moment, it is not an option. I think it should be. The price of the 5TX is £4,995 which includes electric front windows, digital clock, alloy wheels, laminated screen and tinted glass.

Though over 11 years old, the Renault 5 is still regarded as a



The Renault 5 TX. Power steered for easy parking, high geared for quietly relaxed motorway journeys.

MOTORING

STUART MARSHALL

very trendy car by the young. My student daughter threw out heavy hints about 21st birthday presents whenever she went in the RATX. Though a contemporary of cars like the Morris 1100, it still looks perky, impudent and, well, very French.

The week before driving the 5TX I had revisited the Renault 5 Gordini Turbo, which I had not much liked when I first drove it. A small, simple and quite elderly car stretched to the limit was how I summed it up last May.

This time, I drove it for 800 miles, on cross-country routes and on motorways, often in torrential rain. I enjoyed it enormously. At the lights, it gets away like lightning (provided you remember it has an unprogressive, in-or-out clutch) and cruises smoothly and not too noisily at 5,000 rpm in fifth, which is around 100 mph. Renault's official maximum at 6,000 rpm is 115 mph and 0-60 mph acceleration takes nine seconds. This is wholly believable though their claimed average consumption of 36.3 mpg is optimistic, bearing in mind the kind of motoring R5 Gordini Turbo owners have in mind. My figure was 29.2 mpg—but I hadn't had so much fun in a small car for a long time.

Since it was launched in Britain the Gordini Turbo has been given 60 series Pirelli P6 tyres instead of the original 70 series. They sharpen the steering response and have massive grip on wet or dry surfaces.

Given a responsible hand on the small steering wheel, the Gordini Turbo is as safe as it is swift and remains unfussy in town. The interior detail is not very good. A Japanese inspector would, I suspect, as soon

commit hari kari as put his name to a car with such a vague and floppy choke control. The engine was rather clattery when cold and sometimes nullish about restarting when really hot, but the Gordini Turbo represents a lot of performance for modest investment—the price is £3,950.

UNDER General Motors' new marketing strategy for Britain, the up-market models are going to be Opel's in future, the high volume sellers. Vauxhalls (Volkswagens and Audis are on the same tack). The most prestigious cars in the Opel range, the Senator saloon and Monza coupe, have just been extensively modified for 1983 and can now hold their heads up in such company as Mercedes-Benz and BMW.

They have six-cylinder, fuel injected engines of 2.5 litres (the Senator 2.5K C saloon only) or three litres capacity with outputs of 136 bhp and 180 bhp respectively. Styling changes have made them look sleeker and significantly reduced aerodynamic drag, benefiting fuel consumption and high speed stability. I tried a Monza 3.0E C coupe with five-speed manual gearbox and found it most relaxing at autobahn cruising speeds—a maximum of 133 mph is claimed—and eagerly responsive on twisting roads.

The 2.5E C saloon, though not quite so urgent, was quiet, balanced and very comfortable, with an excellent driving position and power steering with the right mix of accuracy and lack of effort. The most luxurious 3.0E CD saloon, with automatic transmission and air conditioning as standard, had seats hard enough to excite Mercedes-Benz's admiration. They were peculiar to the top of the line CD—I thought the standard ones in the cheaper cars much nicer.

Prices are from £10,374 for the 2.5E C saloon to £13,259 for the 3.0E CD. The Monza 3.0E C coupe is £12,822, with five-speed manual or three-speed automatic transmission to choose.

Dabblers, specialists and orchids

IT IS the extraordinarily wide options which gardening offers that make it such a popular hobby. At one extreme, dabblers who are content to grow whatever can be raised readily from seed or obtained from friends or neighbours need never attempt to remember a single botanical name. At the opposite end of the spectrum there is endless scope for specialisation which can lead to a depth of knowledge far beyond that of most professionals.

Yet, knowing all this, I was still surprised to receive a handsome volume devoted exclusively to one genus of orchid, *Paphiopedilum*. These are the plants commonly known as slipper orchids because of the pouch-like shape of the lip or labellum of the flower which plays an important part in ensuring cross pollination and so maintaining the vigour of the species.

For many years most of these orchids were classified as cypripediums—but now this name applies only to the relatively hardy temperate zone species and most of the tropical and sub-tropical kinds are called by botanists and most growers *paphiopedilums*.

The main purpose of *Slipper Orchids* (Croom Helm, £25.00) is to display the art of Digby Graham, a remarkable New Zealand art teacher, who in 1969 at the age of 34 became, so inspired by the collections of some specialists in *paphiopedilum* that he began to paint these plants with great botanical accuracy but also with a highly personal sense of beauty.

GARDENING

ARTHUR HELLIER

From the outset his intention was to publish the pictures and preparations for the book by the time he had painted 37, began. Sadly he died in 1979 before it could be completed but his wife, Robin, who shared his enthusiasm, continued the project, contributing both a biographical sketch of her husband and an account of the way in which orchids captured the imagination of wealthy European plant lovers from the early 19th century onwards.

Today, thanks to the speed of increase made possible by meristem propagation, the cost of many orchids relative to the value of money is much lower than it was and orchid growers are numbered in hundreds of thousands with their own thriving organisations to foster their requirements. Many of these amateurs have acquired great expertise.

Slipper Orchid contains fine reproductions of all 37 paintings which Digby Graham left, 34 of them completed and three incomplete. Each occupies a page measuring 14.5 by 10 ins and the colour is excellent, a paper with an eggshell gloss having been used to capture all detail which is very fine.

Facing each plate is a description of the species by Ronald Roy, one of the experts whose collections first inspired Graham to start painting *paphiopedilums*, and also pen and

ink drawings by the artist of the stamens of the flower, a sterile stamen which botanists regard as important in determining the classification of the plant. These drawings are done with such care and sensitivity for form that, though probably meaningless to most readers, they are certainly beautiful.

I imagine this book will be of as much interest to biologists as to gardeners. Such works seldom run into a second edition and when the first is exhausted they become progressively scarcer and more valuable. Just as important as that, they are always delightful to look at.

One of the pleasures of being a non-specialist is that one is constantly discovering things that no doubt specialists have always known but which have been previously concealed from us. Returning from the first Royal Horticultural Show of 1983 with several bags of spoil, among them some varieties of Irish reticulata I had not previously grown or had lost. I was surprised to find that one was much more sweetly scented than any of the others.

It is named *Violet Beauty* and is a very pretty thing combining light and dark violet purple but though it had been purchased from the Broadleigh Gardens exhibit I had failed to find it in their catalogue or any other.

Scent is often neglected in descriptions of plants or merely mentioned as an attribute of a particular species. *Iris reticulata*, is often called the violet-scented iris and until

Violet Beauty alerted my nostrils I had thought of all as having a distinct but somewhat elusive perfume.

There is nothing elusive about this one though that description would fit most of the others and one had no scent that I could detect but maybe that was something to do with the age of the flowers. One of the pleasures of visiting RHS shows now that the ban on small sales has been removed is that plants on offer are often in bloom and so one can see what one is getting.

I would remind readers who love snowdrops that now, as they are finishing flowering, is the best time to lift and divide them if overcrowded and so have plants to extend the plantation or give to friends so that they may share our pleasures. It is also the time to purchase new varieties but only from specialist nurseries prepared to lift plants now.

There is an increasing number of them, though some are quite small enterprises only able to supply the limited clientele that has somehow sought them out.

However, a few, including Broadleigh Gardens of Bishops Cleeve, Taunton, and Avon Bulbs of Bathford, Bath, conduct a considerable mail-order trade. But the really big bulb growers only market snowdrops in the autumn as dry bulbs, and these do not resettle so well.

For those interested in roses there are demonstrations of rose pruning in the display garden of the Royal National Rose Society, Chiswell Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire, on Saturday and Sunday February



Divide snowdrops now

26 and 27 at 11 am and 3 pm each day.

No charge is made and all are welcome. The garden is within a short distance of the M1 motorway. If the weather is bad the demonstrations will be given under cover.

ASPARAGUS can be successfully grown in most gardens with the minimum of attention. Send a stamp for leaflet "Modern Asparagus Growing" with price list. Also descriptive leaflet on **GLOBE ARTICHOKE**. Variety *Vergé de Leen* (RHS Award of Merit). To: M. Bennett, Long Compton, Shipton-on-Stour, Weyke CV38 5JN

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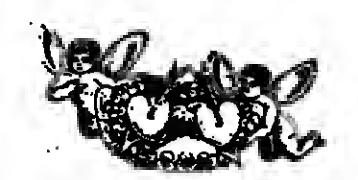
WHAT ON earth is the point of a Valentine?

If you know who sent it, what makes it any different from any old birthday or greetings card? And if you don't, how has the sender displayed any more public devotion than the people who insert ads thanking St Jude for some favour received, secretly signing themselves something like J.S.B.?

If A.S.B. can't come out into the open and say he is Arthur Stanley Briggs, of Gatch Toff, Enginehouse Lane, Esher, Surrey, declaring before all the people that his prayer to St Jude that the dry rot all over the first floor of his house would go away was miraculously answered overnight, what kind of thanks to St Jude is that?

Each year I look at the posh papers and think they can't go on with this weird cloy phony anonymity, and each year they get cloyer. *Susy Pops*, I hope you have a smashing day, *love* *Decy Pops* said one to God knows how many hundreds of them in the Times on Monday, or *Pathely Pops* has his darling *Sandy*, etc etc.

After all, the anonymity of the postal Valentine is weird enough (let alone its expense: who are the people that will pay five quid for a hideous red velvet heart surrounded by Disney-like children). If the recipient is a happily married young woman, will it not embarrass her to suspect that this object was from the divorced sales rep who moved into No 11 last year and who always seems



to be washing his car when she walks past? If unhappily, why all the secrecy in these permis-sive days?

But above all, who are the people that pay, I do not doubt, at least 15 for these posh-paper ones, and since they are not in any alphabetical order, how does Iron Cuddles Man or Your Twiddly Poooshun or Rabbity Boo know that Wiggums will find or even look for his message unless he tells her, thus losing the pleasure (if such it be) of anonymity? I simply do not get it.

I loved Iron Cuddles Man. But just in case you think it is only right-of-centre sentimental bourgeois readers of the Times who do this kind of thing, here are four from last year's Guardian which I have saved — indeed I bet I treasure them more than their recipients did. (1) To Tooty Pops with all my love, Binky Boo Boos. (2) Rickie-Poo loves his Glorybell. Be my potato dumpling today. (3) And wuvvie we said wuvvie we will wuvvie. (4) Big Dip loves his little Girty Wirlp, Wuvv Wuvv.

Dash it all, you can get quite a good meal, with a demi-carafe of the house wine — or, in the presumably not unlikely event of the recipient being literate, even a real hardback book—for what some of these cost. And how is one to explain the curious word-blindness, or rather deafness, or at least insensitivity?

Surely it is obvious that human beings can't wuvvie? Wuvving is what a dog does when it is on to some mysterious scent, or likes to pretend it is, and goes along in a quick, excited zig-zag, alternately growling and sneezing. "Where's Rover?" "Look, there he is, wuvving under that tree. Come here, Rover!" (On second thoughts, maybe this word wasn't so far out.)

There is an unavoidable impression, after reading, page after page of this sort of thing, that all the people who go in for it know each other, in the way that all faustians know all other faustians, all cab-drivers know each other, in those little green sheds they have on the pavement.

One can almost see them, living in some kind of permanent house-party-cum-commune, an enormous white apartment block with swimming-pool, discos and the rest of it, in some place like Richmond or Canonbury. But what makes Binky Boos so sure that Tooty Pops will wade through about three pages of such stuff before she gets to him? She was always rather a fidgety one; might she not suddenly think it would be more fun to be Rickie-Poo's potato dumpling, before her eyesight starts reading all that small print?

Whatever it's all about, I'm pretty sure that the recipients are not like those unknown, ideal, never-actually-met women beloved of the early Troubadours. No secret, veiled beauty is going to hear a deep, manly voice murmur "Tooty Pops" in the passing throng, some weeks later, in the high Spring of lovers, turn in wonderment

SAUSAGE SIDES. — I think I'll love you forever. — THE BABOON HOGWOG. — I wallow in your love. Grunts and snuggles. — F.B. WOMPITTY. Lots and lots of love. — B.B.

and say "You? Binky Boos?"

According to a book which I have to hand (since I wrote it: *A Fear of Days*, a saint and diary extract for every day of the year, advt.), last Monday was also the feast of "St Vitalis, Febeula and Zeno, St Eleucodius of Ravenoa (d 112), St Vivienne of Teramo (d 273), St Maro of Syria (d 390), St Auxentius of Bithynia (about 470), St Antonine, Abbot of Sorrento (about 830), or St Bruno and Eighteen Companions (martyred in Prussia, 1008).

St Valentine was a Roman martyr of the third century; and the practice of sending love-cards (anonymous or otherwise) on this day has nothing whatever to do with him, but possibly something to do with an old belief that this was the date when birds started mating. But surely not anonymously?

And so to bed... Pepys at 350

BY ANTHONY CURTIS

Next Wednesday is the 350th anniversary of the birth of Samuel Pepys. It will be marked by the publication of the two final volumes of the Latham and Matthews edition of the Diary.

The complete text of the Diary which Pepys kept between the ages of 37 and 56 (from 1660 until 1689) has already been published in full including those erotic passages which Sir Leslie Stephen said "cannot possibly be printed." It occupies nine volumes; one for each year. The fortunate people who possess them have been waiting since the appearance of Volume IX in 1976 for the fulfilment of a promise:

This edition will comprise eleven volumes — nine volumes of text and footnotes (with an introduction in volume 1), a tenth volume of commentary (the Companion) and an eleventh volume of Index. It will be published in instalments over the course of the next few years.

Apart from the miscalculation in the use of the word "few," this promise, made in 1970, has now been kept, with the appearance on Wednesday of the plump Companion and its slimmer sibling, the Index.

It would be superfluous to shower any more praise on the two editors, Robert Latham and William Matthews, for the impeccable scholarship with which they have discharged their task. In the event it was a double task, first one of establishing and interpreting the text from the system of shorthand used by Pepys (not his invention, incidentally); and second, presenting that text in an accurate, lucid, convenient form for the ordinary reader. As C. P. Snow said in the Financial Times when reviewing an earlier volume, the whole operation represents "a triumph of modern scholarship." Sadly one of the two editors, Professor William Matthews of the University of California (whose Press publishes the Diary in the U.S.), did not live to see the two last volumes appear. It was Prof Matthews, a language expert, who prepared the new transcription from Pepys' original manuscript. The manuscript belongs to Magdalene College, Cambridge, where Pepys was a student and to which he bequeathed his collection of 3,000 volumes. These volumes form the Pepys Library housed in its own building, containing the specially designed bookcases

which Pepys had made for them (see drawing, right).

Robert Latham, the other Diary Editor, is the present Pepys Librarian at Magdalene, and in addition to his work on the Diary he is also general editor of the Catalogue of the Pepys Library which is currently being published by Boydell and Brewer. For those who cannot afford the considerable investment of time and money required by the complete Diary, Mr Latham has prepared The Illustrated Pepys, a charming pictorial volume in one volume, giving a flavour of the contents of each of the nine years of the whole, though it must be added that this cannot really be a substitute for reading through the complete work with its continuing sense of immediacy: watching, for instance, in volume I the Restoration of the monarch become ever more imminent day by day, as General Monk descends on London, and in consequence the sharp upturn in Pepys' own career prospects as "My Lord" (Edward Montagu) comes back into favour from the wilderness.

Mr Latham is also the main writer and compiler of the Companion volume in which he has called for aid from an impressive list of historians and

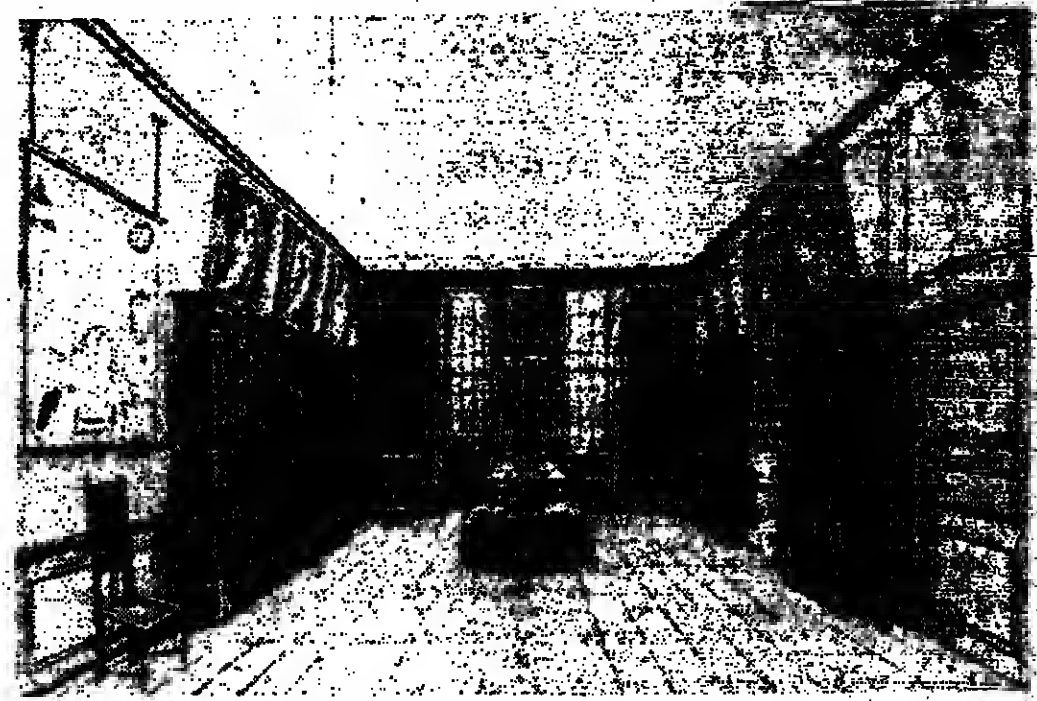
scholars. Their various fields stretch across the range of interests of a diarist who was the very embodiment of the 17th century virtuoso. These interests include politics, military and naval history, music and the arts, the weather, health, Whitehall, the City, the dockyards. Thus although the bulk of the volume is the work of Dr Latham, the short entries identifying individuals are interrupted from time to time by more substantial articles of a general nature written by his contributors.

Pepys was a great playgoer and the Diary is peppered with accounts of his visits to the theatre. There are two articles covering this area. One is by Peter Holland on "Theatre" telling the story of what happened to the ownership and administration of the theatres in Restoration London, explaining how Sir William Davenant and Thomas Killigrew achieved a virtual monopoly, and the rivalry between their two companies. The other by Richard Luckett on "Plays" gives an insight into the working of the Restoration repertoire system and names the work of those playwrights whom Pepys, not an easy man to please, especially enjoyed. He saw

Dryden's Secret Love seven times.

Mention of Dryden may serve to illustrate the usefulness of the Companion to someone who wants not to read but to consult the Diary. He remembers that there was some close connection between Pepys and Dryden but cannot quite remember what it was. His first port of call is the Companion from which under "Dryden" he learns that they were up at Cambridge together in the 1650s and also distant cousins. They had slightly similar careers as young men in the public administration, and in 1689, Dryden accepted a suggestion from Pepys that he include Chaucer's Parson's Tale among the pieces he translated for his Fables.

What our researcher does not learn is where, if at all, Dryden appears in the Diary. For that he must turn to the Index volume where there are three references given (one in 1664 and two in 1667), the earlier being an occasion when Pepys came across Dryden in Willis Coffee House but did not have time to stop and talk. This same apparatus, easy to use, works equally well for all the hundreds of individuals mentioned in the Diary and places on



Pepys' library in York Buildings, King Street, off the Strand from a contemporary drawing c. 1693

which it touches.

This is the fourth separate edition of the Diary since the first appeared in 1825; and it is inconceivable that it will ever need to be edited again. It was a fortunate day for the publishing house of George Bell when they took over the firm of Henry Bohn and thus acquired the copyrights in the original Braybrooke edition of Pepys. Bell published each subsequent edition and now as Bell and Hyman have brought out this definitive edition.

The present chairman, Robin Hyman, tells of one lighter moment during its gestation, when, in 1967, the Inland Revenue, hearing about a new edition of the Diary, sent Mr Pepys an Income Tax form of his publishers containing questions like "If you are in business please state the nature of that business."

There will be a commemorative service for Pepys in St Bride's Church on Wednesday and there is a Pepys Exhibition

in the Guildhall Library open until April 8. The Complete Set of "The Diary of Samuel Pepys" (Volumes I to XI) edited by Robert Latham and William Matthews (Bell and Hyman) £140.00. Volume X (Companion) £19.50. Volume XI (Index) £19.50. Volumes X and XI, bought together, £39.00. The Illustrated Pepys, selected and edited by Robert Latham (Bell and Hyman) £9.95 (hard back), £5.95 (paperback).

Fiction

Strange disturbances

BY MARTIN SEYMOUR-SMITH

Separate Tracks by Jane Rogers. Faber & Faber. £7.95, 207 pages.

The Killing Ground by Mary Lee Settle. Farrar, Straus & Giroux/Faber & Faber. £5.25, 385 pages.

Three Six Seven by Peter Vansittart. Peter Owen. £8.95, 236 pages.

Disturbed adolescents and delinquent behaviour are common subjects in contemporary English fiction, and we have seen some informative and revealing novels — mostly by those who have experience of the field. There can have been none better than Jane Rogers' harsh, lyrical, and relentlessly realistic *Separate Tracks*. Thirty years ago this would

have been "shockingly frank", even today it is almost intolerably candid, although in an entirely admirable way.

It deals with a sullen, violent, almost inaccessible 16-year-old boy, abandoned by his mother, who lives in a children's home run by a character called Mrs G. — a memorable character, to whom those engaged in social work, or in charge of social workers, might well give some attention.

Emma, who is doing pre-university social work, is anxious about middle-class privileges. She is well-intentioned and honest, but has yet to learn the realities of the situation. Seeing in the boy's silence a sort of self-confidence which she herself lacks, she tries to help him. But communication between them is impossible — the most tragic

and sharply demonstrated fact of Jane Rogers' uncompromising novel. The violent and shocking end is inevitable.

Emma's feelings for the boy, and his stifled ones for her, are presented without embarrassment; they have a kind of lyrical quality, for all that this is muted and condemned. *Separate Tracks* does not set out to make social comment. But like most novels which begin as imaginative statements, it contains much: its title, and the implications of this, will cause many to reflect on the alleged dissolution of class barriers. But first and foremost this is a sad and dramatic story, deeply felt although never stridently written. It is a remarkable first novel, breaking new ground in an already much explored area.

The Killing Ground is the fifth and last of Mary Lee Settle's series of novels with the general title "The Beulah Quintet": originally a trilogy, about the settlement of West Virginia between 1754 and 1774. It has been praised as not "formula-ridden" on the one hand, attacked as "sugar-coated popular history" on the other. This latest book, set in modern times, lies uneasily between the two extremes. It is diffuse, too long, and full of longeurs.

Hannah McKarkle has escaped from her conventional family to live in New York. But when she hears that her beloved brother Johnny has died in jail, she returns to discover the truth. She is disconcerted to find that the "best" people are in every way inferior to the "ordinary."



Jane Rogers: story of a 16-year-old

unpretentious ones. The best aspect of her novel is its attempt to treat of a collective history of the region. It reminds one of the Spanish thinker Unamuno's concept of "the unbroken history of the folk," a vital history which is neither good nor bad, but which is indispensable for understanding.

Hannah McKarkle discovers that she has to liberate herself from her own violent southern past all over again, since the story of her brother Johnny and his death holds some unwelcome revelations. This novel will not be easy for English readers who have not visited the American South to understand. It is also, unfortunately, clogged up with irrelevances. But the effort to read it is worth making; it affords a valuable glimpse into a strange and in many ways archaic culture.

Peter Vansittart is a strange and unusual writer; he may well be the best English historical novelist now writing. *Three Six Seven* is set in the year of its title. England is now on the rotting periphery of the Roman Empire. So thinks Drusus Antonius Muras, as he takes stock of the situation at the town of Silchester. The country is tax-drained, and subject to increasingly savage barbarian raids. However, Drusus decides that if a person acted carefully he might be able to take over the island. He plans to take the chance and do so himself.

The story is a subtle allegory of the position of Great Britain today, and it is also a meticulous and exciting historical novel.

Hollywood hoo-ha

BY RICHARD LAMBERT

Indecent Exposure:

A True Story of Hollywood and Wall Street by David McClintick. Columbus Books. £10.95, 544 pages.

Indecent Exposure is a nasty piece of work. It deals with an unpleasant cast of characters who act in an unsatisfactory manner through a series of unsavoury events. Because its subjects are of essentially no political, economic, or human importance, the only reason for the existence of its 544 pages can be that the subject matter—dirty doings in Hollywood boardrooms—is perceived to be good box office.

There is nothing very unusual about that. Authors have been compiling little-tattle about "movie" moguls almost since the first image flickered across a screen. But *Indecent Exposure* claims to be something different.

"Everything in this book is real," asserts its author, David McClintick, who spent 17 years on the staff of the Wall Street Journal — "every episode, scene, weather reference, conversation and name (except for that of a single confidential source)."

It is based, we are told, on hundreds of hours of interviews with more than a hundred people, all of whom had detailed, first-hand knowledge of the subject. And just in case anyone has missed the point, high in the list of acknowledgements stands "Robert D. Sack, the finest libel lawyer in America and, not insignificantly, an astute editorial critic."

The story itself is simply told. In the early 1970s the investment firms of Allen and Company buys into ailing Columbia Pictures, and installs one of its employees, Alan Hirschfeld, as president. A former Hollywood agent, David Begelman, is put in charge of

production, and the studio turns out a string of hits.

In 1976, however, Begelman forges the name of actor Cliff Robertson on a cheque for \$10,000. The embezzlement is discovered, and on further investigation it turns out that Begelman has misappropriated a total of \$61,008, and fled with his expenses to the tune of another \$23,000.

Hirschfeld wants to fire him, but runs into stiff opposition from powerful figures on Columbia's board, who appear to think that what Begelman really needs is a good shrink. After much shilly-shallying, both Begelman and Hirschfeld get the chop.

In his pursuit of "the truth," McClintick has decided that mere narrative would be inadequate. "Human beings," he says magisterially, "do not speak in paraphrase." Therefore he has taken it upon himself to recreate lengthy dialogues in an apparently verbatim fashion.

Despite his access to all those hundreds of hours of interviews, there has been wide speculation that his confidential source of information was none other than Alan Hirschfeld—who, to put it mildly, had an axe to grind.

Having gone so far, it is a small step for McClintick to move, God-like, into the minds of his characters:

"Sitting at home on a Sunday three months later, Begelman decided to proceed with his plan for concealing the Pierre Groleau embezzlement."

If this is history, it is strictly that of the "Hitler sat in his bath and decided to invade Poland" category.

What makes the book even more distasteful is that the characters, although ostensibly drawn true to life, are in reality nothing more than caricatures. The goodies have

loving families, and referee football matches. But the baddies are terrible.

On two separate occasions, the names of one character's recent lovers are faithfully recorded; no wonder he has "slightly sunken eyes." Another of McClintick's villains is known as the Rabbit.

Although many people assume that the tag originated as a sexual reference, it actually was a physical description coined by Fanny Brice, who was to become his mother-in-law in the 1940s. This style is typical of the author at his fastest. *Indecent Exposure* apparently came to view in the form of grubby Xerox copies, which were passed from hand to hand among the Hollywood cognoscenti. It seems a strangely appropriate form of publication.

One could go on for some time, but mindful of the author's warm relationship with the "finest libel lawyer in America," it may be more sensible to dwell on the one good thing that has come out of this book—a truly scorching review by Gore Vidal which appeared in the New York Review of Books last autumn.

He said: "The implicit moral of *Indecent Exposure*... is not the story that the book tells but the book itself as artifact, the work of a writer who believes that he can take real people and events and remake them; as it were, in his own image. Worse, he is so filled with an odd animus toward most of his characters that he repeats accusations that he knows to be untrue so that he can recant them, slyly, in footnotes to the text."

It would have been better, Vidal concluded, simply to "tell the truth as far as the truth can ever be determined. That is what used to be known as journalism." I couldn't have put it better myself.

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Fathoming the French

BY MALCOLM RUTHERFORD

The French by Theodore Zeldin. Collins. £12.95, 542 pages

The French spend a smaller percentage of their income on clothes than any other nation in Europe. They also import more dogs — about 400,000 a year, mainly from England. About 34 per cent of French homes now have one: the figure for England is 23 per cent. Moreover, the dog population in France is expected to double by the year 2000 (in England it is static) so that there might even be more French pets than French people.

The French also have one of the lowest consumptions of eggs, partly it seems because eggs used to be considered bad for babies. They are low on architects too: only 12,000 against 24,000 in Britain and 40,000 in (presumably) West Germany. Italy outstrips the lot.

The Academie Française only accepted "humour" as a French word — as distinct from *esprit*, meaning wit — in 1932. The newspaper *Le Monde* now contains one English word in every 166.

A French journalist once went along to interview John Kennedy only to be told that he had decided not to bother any more about Franco-American relations because it was a pure waste of time.

One could go on, but that would be almost to plagiarise if not to parody. Theodore Zeldin is a master of producing interesting facts. He is rather less good on organising his

material and drawing conclusions, or what he himself calls being "schematic."

His massive two-volume *France 1848-1945* was sub-titled *Ambition, Love and Politics* and *Intellect, Taste and Anxiety* not from any great historical insight, but one suspects because

He can still be pretentious: for example, his comment on Brigitte Bardot: "She must be seen in the total context of attitudes to sexuality." But it is rare for an Oxford don to have interviewed her at all.

From Yves Montand, another French movie star associated with the Left, he drew the comment:

"It is better to be a Communist in a Rolls than a Fascist in a tank. There are bastards who do not drive Rolls-Royces."

There is a sketch of Yvon Gattaz, head of the French federation of employers' unions, that would have graced the pages of any financial newspaper: "Gattaz wants to make his employees happy, but not equal. The boss must remain the boss." And an equally tantalising few pages on the Auguste Comte Institute founded by President Giscard as a kind of super business school for those already practising and closed down by the Socialists for being too elitist.

The Institute held no lectures, only discussions, but it got to the heart of business problems in a practical way. Analysing, for instance, the problems of the French timber industry, a small group went to Sweden to see the competition, dissected the bureaucracy in Paris and found that the French could

compete after all: "They found the traditional factor."

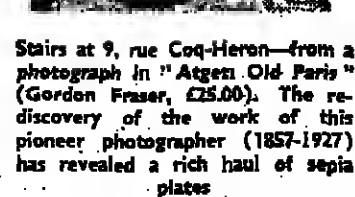
Oddly enough, Zeldin does have insights as well as a talent for reporting. He notes of the Comte de Paris, the pretender to the throne, that he refused to attend the wedding of two of his children on the grounds that his prospective in-laws were beneath him.

The different fates of the British and French royal families, he comments, "is due not to fundamentally different popular mentalities in the two countries but to the skill of one family and the incompetence of another."

He is perceptive too in stressing the affinity between France and the U.S., despite what President Kennedy said to the French journalist. Quotations illustrating the French admiration of America are scattered throughout the book and there are good historical reasons for it. Even today the Socialist President, Mitterrand, is not wholly out of sympathy with a Republican Administration. By contrast, the French fascination with Germany is understated to a degree that suggests further research is necessary.

A word of warning. The first chapter showing Zeldin trying to organise his theme is awful. "The world is divided into cat lovers and dog lovers," he writes. "My argument is that the French are both cats and dogs." So is part of the last. The only classifying that I find satisfactory is between the warm and the cold.

Ignore, therefore, in the introduction, 500 or so pages you have an anatomy of France as it is, not as it should be.



Stairs at 9, rue Coq-Héron — from a photograph in "Atten Old Paris" (Gordon Fraser, £25.00). The rediscovery of the work of this pioneer photographer (1857-1927) has revealed a rich haul of sepia plates

in a random way all those themes were touched on. It was from there, for instance, that one learned that in 1809 half the taxis in London were Renaults, and a great deal of extraneous information besides.

كتاب المصنف

HOW TO SPEND IT

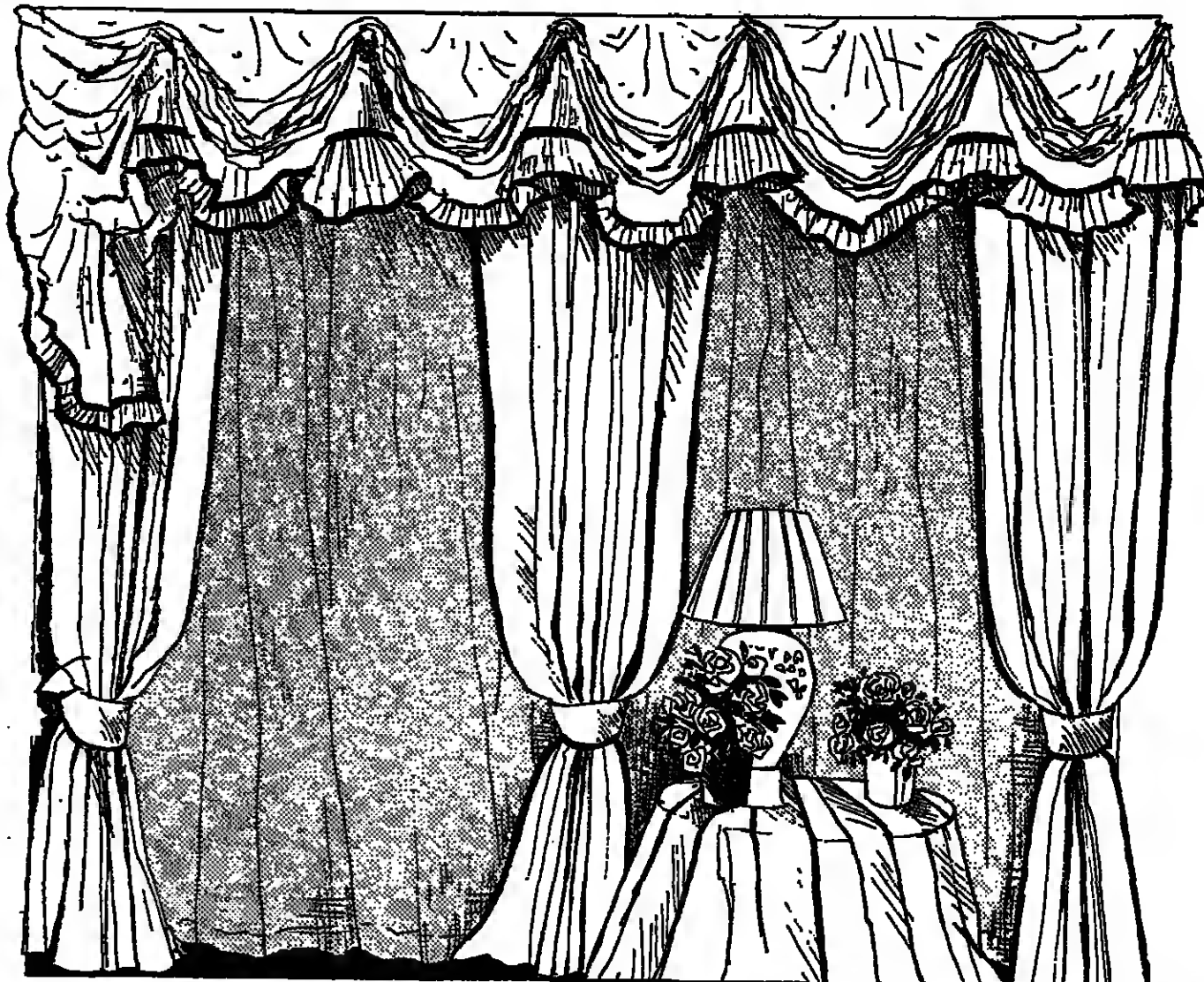
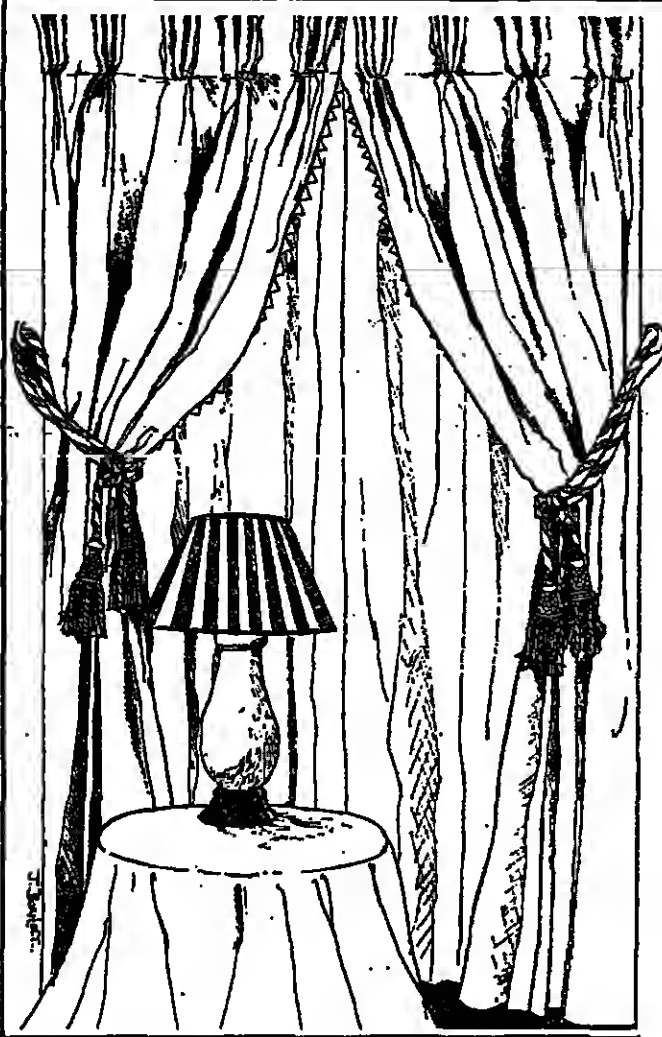
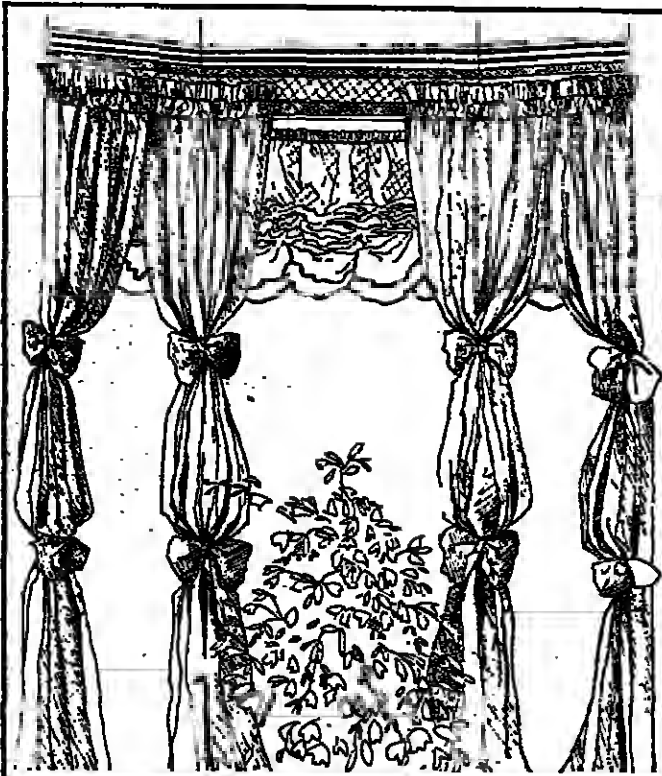
by Lucia van der Post

● The Miss Campbell way with curtains can be summed up very briefly—never, never, never. Rather buy lots of inexpensive fabric and have it expertly made than buy expensive fabric and use the little woman round the corner to make it up. Again if money is short she advises using more of a cheaper fabric rather than less of an expensive one.

She often binds the edges of her curtains to give them a finished look. In the sketch far right can be seen her own bedroom curtains—she bought acres of special offer cream chintz at £1 a yard and bound the edges in green braid.

Near right top is an idea that she used in her own drawing-room—the inner curtains are purely decorative. Made of unlined silk they have been gathered twice. The outer curtains, of a contrasting material, are the ones used when she wants to shut out the world.

Near right below, she uses two layers of curtains—the outer layer hangs plainly while the inner layer is snuggled back to give a sumptuous air.



Drawings by Jane Burholt

Call in the professionals

In Britain decorators are thought to be "elitist." Nina Campbell believes we've got it wrong

THERE is an aphorism, coined, I need hardly say, by an American designer which runs like this—"only the very rich can afford not to employ a decorator." It is an aphorism with which most of middle America seems to agree—that is, decorating a house in America is seen to be a professional business requiring expert knowledge and it is as natural to consult and pay for such know-how as it would be to pay for a dentist, a lawyer or an accountant.

In this country it is, certainly in the circles in which I move, not really "on" to employ a designer or decorator. An architect yes, if structural works and wall-moving is required. But a decorator? Heaven forbid.

Nina Campbell, who describes herself simply as a "decorator" and who has become known for her gentle English country house interiors, believes ardently that these decorators who do their job properly can save their clients hours of hassle and indecision but, more importantly, can give them a heightened sense of enjoyment of their own home for a sum that can actually cost less than if the householder had done it on his or her own.

It isn't perhaps generally known that decorators, if given a whole house to do, make their money not by charging the client, but by the margins on things like the furnishings, the carpets, the curtains, the furniture—they can buy at trade price and charge the customer the retail price.

For those who don't have the wherewithal to do a whole house at once, most decorators, Nina Campbell among them, are happy to charge for their time by the hour, giving the householder a kind of masterplan to which they can work as and when money becomes available.

If the consultancy fee seems high—it runs to £100 in London and £150 in the country—remember that it is buying

years of know-how and expertise. It often buys a simple solution to a seemingly insurmountable problem, an effective but less expensive way of providing a certain effect, as well as access to teams of craftsmen, upholsterers and the like.

To get the best out of a decorator you need to be prepared to put a lot of effort in yourself—Nina Campbell says that her least successful houses are the ones where the client takes no interest at all. She prides herself on the clients who end up thinking they did it all themselves—because she has involved them so much in the project that she has managed to give them what they only half-knew they wanted.

It is crucial to find a decorator whose broad band of style you are in sympathy with. Whether it be Robin Gull of Homeworks, Mary Fox Linton, Tessa Kennedy, David Milmarie—each has a "flavour" which is all his or her own.

The Nina Campbell touch can be seen at her two small shops in Walton Street, London, SW2. At number 48, she sells small accessories—like exquisitely pretty cushions, French porcelain, small pieces of antique furniture, her own fabrics.

At number 54 which opens this week, she will run her decorating office but she will be selling some ravishing cane furniture from France, a collection of rather formal furniture by Jacques Leguennec, and a large range of fabrics and wallpapers. Her assistants will be primed to advise and help every customer, whether buying a small piece of fabric or wanting a whole house done up.

In the meantime for those who just want a few ideas to perk up the house they're already in, Nina Campbell offers some thoughts on how to give a house that special look.

If you can't afford to spend a lot of money on preparing a poorly-plastered wall it is very effective to use some inexpen-

sive fabric like red and white ticking to cover it—it can either be paper-backed by a new process and then stuck up like wallpaper or it can be attached to battens.

Never skimp on the quality of soft furnishings—things like beds and sofas—the difference in price between good and poor quality is a small proportion of the total bill. In other words it is better to buy well once, than poorly first time round and have to buy again.

Flooring—if you're short of money use coconut matting and later on invest in rugs which can last a lifetime and be moved from house to house.

Tables—if the dining table isn't of high quality you can cover it to the floor with one fabric and then put a shorter cloth (with an 8-inch drop) over it which you can change according to mood and colour scheme.

Lighting—is best done with substantial table lamps (for reading, they work well if large enough, high enough and fitted with a high wattage lamp) and then use spotlights where necessary.

Colours—warm colour schemes work best in England and it is a good idea to start with a base colour—say terracotta—and then work in shades of it through the house. Particularly in small houses and flats it is best to avoid abrupt changes of colour schemes—link the rooms by using carpets either in the same colour or in tones of the same colour.

Linens—I've had my romance with Percale and now I think there is nothing like pure white linen sheets to give a feeling of real luxury. I don't like a bedspread on the bed—you just have to keep taking it on and off and then where do you put it? I like to have a very pretty eiderdown and masses of very pretty pillows.

Guarding the cells

NOWADAYS most of us have at last realised quite how much damage the sun can do to our skins. The beauty experts and dermatologists have been doing their best to tell us for the past 10 years or so. At this time of year there is not too much danger in Britain but it is the height of the skiing season and skiers have long been warned of what the combination of cold winds, glaring snow and scorching sun can do to their skins. It is the ultra-violet rays that do the real damage, going right down into the lower levels of the skin, damaging the growing cells.

So, for those who want to go on skiing but mind about caring for their skins, many beauty houses have produced increasingly sophisticated products that do more than one job well. In recent years there has been a whole spate of products, in particular moisturisers and foundations, which have a sun-screen built into them as well.

This means that most of the newer moisturisers and foundations will now give you considerable sun protection. Good examples of the latest of these protective products is Charles of the Ritz Optimum Balance moisturiser, Lancôme's Blenfaît du Mélin Protection and Helena Rubinstein's new Fluide Mat



Pauline Rosenthal

tinted foundation in six shades formulated with a sun filter called Cinnoxate to shield the skin. However, these products are mainly useful for winter sun away from the snow.

You will almost certainly need greater protection when you are out on the slopes and this is afforded by the sun block creams. As most people now know, sun products are available in varying strengths and these strengths are indicated by

sun Protection Factor numbers that are given on the products. Low numbers are only for those people who tan easily and these products have an SPF of three to eight. They are not really suitable for high altitude sunlight. A really effective sun block cream is best and this has an SPF of 10 to 15. Nowadays you can get them lightly tinted as well as untinted. Try Estée Lauder's Sun Block cream or there's Vichy's Total Sunscreen.

Almar's Sun Bloc Creme and Roc Antisun tinted foundation to choose from.

In case you find that you have not given your face enough protection and it gets burnt, be sure to take one of the super rich treatment, night creams made with collagen which will help to ensure that you have not done any long-term damage.

Most of these creams are a mixture of animal protein and sugar protein and they are now available in soluble form that is readily absorbed by the skin and give it an intensive deep-down treatment. Boots No. 7 Special Collection have Cream Concentrate with collagen, Revlon make European Collagen Complex (created by leading skin care specialists in Rome, Copenhagen, Paris and Geneva).

Two special collagen night cream formulas especially for older skins. Orlane's new Ligne Pure Compose Fluide Vespérale and a new cream by Roc called Sensilis R Wrinkle Treatment Cream, have been developed using the latest medical and cosmetic expertise: both are designed to stimulate cell renewal and being hypo-allergenic, are suitable for even the most delicate complexions.

JOAN PRICE

in Next week's FT

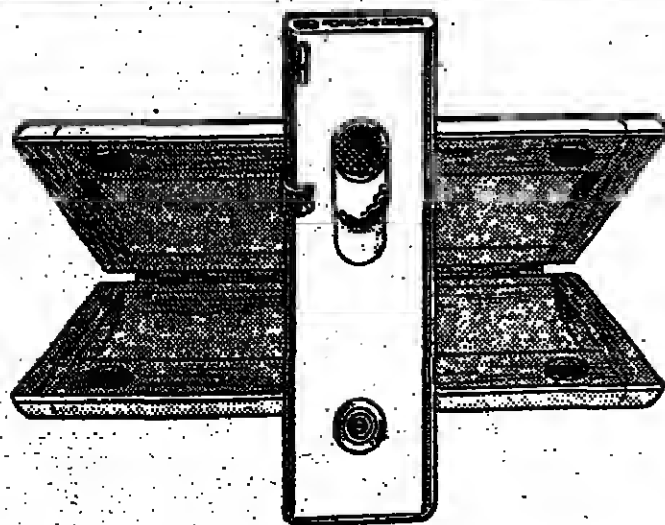
— The Technology Page—Tuesday to Friday—the latest technological developments and trends.

— The Management Page—Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday—reviewing management theory and practice in Britain and around the world.

— The Marketing Page—every Thursday—news and case studies.

— Building and Civil Engineering Page—every Monday—contracts, new products and industry news.

The FT brings you the information you need — read it every working day.
No FT...no comment



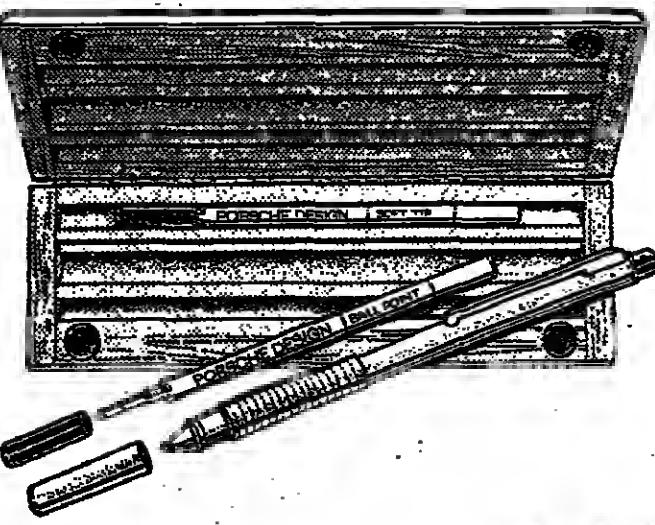
Posh Porsche

THE PORSCHE name, once exclusively linked to "the marvellous sleek cars emanating from the family firm," has also begun to be linked with a group of products that

are gaining just as much of a name for excellent quality and technical innovation.

First products from the Porsche design studio run by Ferdinand Porsche (he who, when with the car firm, was responsible for the famous S811) was a group of sunglasses and watches. Then came ski goggles (still, I think, the most elegant of them all) and luggage. The latest collection is a group of products based on titanium.

Attracted by its physical



Drawings by Frank Wheeler

properties—it is rather like fine steel but about 50 per cent lighter—the studio has used it to produce uniquely beautiful objects.

Don't expect anything from the studio to be cheap—almost all the products are expensive in terms of their rivals on the shop shelves. But, as Ferdinand Porsche once told me, "price is not what I'm interested in, it is the right products from the right material that matters to me".

Sketched here are two of

the latest designs, on the left is a titanium lighter (it weighs just 47 gm, is only 5.5 mm deep and has a very high-tech lighting mechanism). On the right is an exquisitely light and elegant pen fitted with a ball point. The lighter is £70, the pen £85 — both are beautifully packaged in fine wooden blackened oak boxes. Find the titanium collection in Harrods, Simpson's Piccadilly, London SW1 and all Porsche car centres.

Pushbutton opera

As one whom the full moon sometimes attacks with sudden opera fever, causing me to hazy and howl outside (or even inside) Covent Garden, I welcome Longman Video's new venture into opera on videotape. Aida, Otello, Nabucco, Mory Stuart are all now in pushbutton form, and you may buy the golden voices and stage presences of such as Kiri Te Kanawa, Piero Cappuccelli, Fiorenza Cossotto, Renata Bruson and Dame Janet Baker.

After the televised Ring it was only a matter of time before video prospectors started stak-

VIDEO

NIGEL ANDREWS

ing mighty claims on opera. Longmans have gone to the Arena di Verona for their three Verdi productions, the Coliseum for Mory Stuart, and visually and vocally the results are a feast.

The Verona Otello takes place in a velvet dark night on a mighty sweep of light-rimmed stone tiers and starts the stentorian Vladimir Arltov as the Moor; plus Cappuccelli raising the roof (if there were one) as Iago and Te Kanawa nightingaling away resplendently as Desdemona.

Aida doesn't quite out-spectacular the first ever Aida I saw—indeed the first opera I saw—at the Caracalla Baths in Rome. Camels and horses, and for ought I recall elephants, tripped the light fantastic in the Ethiopian princesses' mad hobby with forlorn cries of "Gloria" from the crowd-sellers in the audience. Here, in fine triune form, Maria Chiara (Aida), Nicola Martinucci (Radames) and the trombone-chord Cosetta (Amneris) hurt forth noisily with which an ice-cream could commute.

The production was directed for television by Brian Large. It's Ravenna's Ring supreme, the only one ever televised apart from a wobbly stretch of sword on my telly in Act 1—is that too much cutting between details in the triumph scene elsewhere, through, splendid.

Before I am fagged down for transcribing by this new opera's opera critics, let me hasten to add that Nabucco, the third Verdi-Arena production, features R. Bruson and the rous-

ing tones of "Va Pensiero", and that Mory Stuart, already TV-ated, is the poignantly preserved farwell ENO appearance of Dame J. Baker. Happy opera going.

Longmans have also ventured forth into the field of instructional video. Their specially produced Dinosaurs—Fun, Fact and Fantasy, a trip round ancient natural history aimed at young viewers, is an object-lesson in how to sugar the pill of pedagogy with a little fly-by-humour. With its jingly songs, paintbrush graphics and sooty-eyed crocodile narrator named Dill, it's perfect for children and will do very nicely, thank you, for adults as well.

Although few people of any age could quite grasp at one viewing the historical ground plan or the oamies of the different dinosaurs (they're cheerfully hurried at us in song at regular intervals), video does allow replay and this tape has the charm of an enjoyable awful puns of an enjoyable awful puns. "There goes an odonto-saurus—" "Do you think he's saurus?" and it's directed and presented with wit, fun and invention by David Doig and Derek Griffiths.

Equal-best education video of the month is The Entertaining Electron (Guild Home Video). No dinosaurs here, but we do have Frankie Howard, Mr. H. with the face of a distressed basket-hound and the voice of a kitchen-blender in extremis, hovers to briefly as the guest star of this voyage around TV technology. Now, as seldom before, you will understand how lighting, sound and computerised camerawork function in your favourite entertainment. Chris Cook directed; Howard Steele and Dr. Boris Townsend with admirable lucidity present.

Finally, in a week that ushers into Britain the new Antonioni film, sample in video a famous older one: Blow Up (MGM). The Swinging 60s have fallen down the obelisk of history, so we can at last view this movie as its own sui generis parable: not as a wobbly social chronicle made by a presumptuous foreigner. Antonioni dresses up a perfect, teasing, intricate fable about fantasy and truth, mystery and identity—the themes are astonishingly close-knit to identification of a woman—in the peacock-tail coat of many colours that was '60s Britain. David Hemmings and Vanessa Redgrave star. The MGM technicians provide excellent picture-quality.



A detail from "Spindrift" by John MacWhirter

The British landscape

BY WILLIAM PACKER

Landscape painting is not exactly a British preserve, but that has not stopped us one bit from priding ourselves on the peculiar talents we have so long displayed within it. Whether it is a taste for Art, however, that makes us boast so freely, is rather more open to doubt.

It is the landscape itself that we love, the open air and the call of the wild—ours a safe and sentimental, view-dimmed, country-cottage-taking romanticism, with an atavistic regret thrown in for Forest of Arden as it was in the Golden World. The Art is just a by-product, and what surely will fill the Hayward Gallery these coming weeks (until April 17; then in Bristol, Stoke and Sheffield civic galleries) is no particular relish of painterly quality and virtue, but the simple, natural delight in the known, the familiar and the recognisable, and the poignant recall of common experience and time past.

Such feelings are not unreasonable nor at all contemptible. We must not be cultural snobs, and it would be an arrogant and insensitive artist who held that Art alone is the proper channel for any such intimation of mortality. But we live in dangerous

times, and must guard against the easy but false conclusion. Would that good exhibitions were naturally popular with a wide and generous public—but popularity and general accessibility have nothing to do with the quality of an exhibition.

How sad it would be, and quite as wrong, if such a show as the Arts Council's current "Landscape in Britain 1850-1950" should be taken as an example and pattern for the future, at the expense of more difficult and challenging exercises, rather than as the partial, though not pre-Raphaelite to Expressionist, how new and fresh so much of it is in general view and modest or grandiose, how very good, and how unexpected.

Surprise follows surprise—the too-long discredited work of an established name perhaps (Chill October by John Millais); forgotten favourites of the Victorian and Edwardian Academy (Spindrift by John MacWhirter, Dusk by George Clausen); or the work of the still critically unfashionable (The Poppo Field by Alfred Munnings). And always there are the obscure rising to a de-

served attention (Stirling Station by William Kennedy, A Derbyshire Farm by George Mason, Reflections, Bolton, by Leslie Hunter, Autumn Kin-nord, by James Macintosh Patrick, which is almost the first thing we see).

The show begins in the last year of Turner's life, with David Cox and John Linnell, and ends, as it was in the 1950s, with non-romanticism and Expressionism, with Frost, Vaughan, Weight, Mary Potter and Prunella Clough. Joan Eardley's magnificent Breaking Ice shows just how fine an early death some 20 years ago, and in between come the Nashes, the Spencers, Bomberg, Steer, Ginner, Gore, Scots such as Guthrie, Gillies, Walton; photographers from Roger Featon to Bill Brandt—it is not for me but rather for you to pick out your own plums.

Upstairs, two further shows should not be missed: the large abstract collages of Francis Davison, most handsomely mounted, and Howard Hodgkin's choice group of Indian Drawings. Both warrant the separate consideration I hope in give them later.

War and peace

Lack of space eliminated my mention last week of Capital's tribute to Eubie Blake last Saturday, and he died that very day, five days after his 100th birthday. It's good that Capital's Brian Rust should have compiled this programme in time.

The most portentous item of the past week should have been Sunday's debate on The Nuclear Issue between E. P. Thompson and Edward Luttwak of the Centre for Strategic Studies at Washington. Both sides treated it as the clergy treat issues of religion, a matter of faith. Their minds, as the Minister said to the CND, were made up. I heard no new points made in the discussion apart from Mr. Luttwak's insistence that the West should have, not nuclear equality with the Soviet, but nuclear superiority, since the Soviet, being a fundamentally military empire, has infinite superiority over the West in "conventional" weapons. The confrontation will have brought consolation to both sides, the enlightenment of neither. The 20-minute complications of contemporary writing about the Peninsula War under the title The Scum of the Earth should dissuade anyone who feels drawn towards conventional war—two very vivid programmes, compiled for Radio 3 by David Bean, with three more to come.

And so to peace. I couldn't love anyone who didn't love Emma, though I wouldn't insist on their loving Emma herself, that spoilt and selfish young lady. On the other hand, they couldn't fail to love Angharad Rees, who is playing the part in John Tydemann's serial adaptation of Jane Austen's novel. We had the first instalment last Sunday. Emma has succeeded in steering her own protégée, Harriet Smith away from the worthy young farmer Martin and guided her towards young Mr. Elton, the vicar. Juliet Waley sounded a trifle sophisticated for a 16-year-old founding, though I dare say Emma's tutelage had a hand in that. Michael Drew as Mr. Elton seemed reasonably enthusiastic, while Alan Moore, as Mr. Knightley looked on with benevolent disapproval. I'm going to enjoy this.

As a kind of appendix, Radio 3 has a charming programme on Tuesday. A Sensibility to Music, dealing with the references to music in Jane Austen's books, illustrated with music from her own albums, some of it copied out in her own hand.

Radio 4's Monday play was a winner too. Ostrovsky's *Boz Money*, a farcical comedy about life among the smart set in Moscow. The play dates from 1876, and was well translated and adapted by Peter Tegel. Vassilov, an honest businessman, comes to Moscow and falls for Lydia, the spendthrift toast of the town. She consents to marry him because, as a joke, his friends have told her that he owns goldmines. She spends more than ever, but Vassilov pays her bills only on condition that she will give up her wasteful life. At the climax, Lydia and her mother are facing the bailiffs, while Vassilov has become rich. He will only take his wife back if she will take a job, as his housekeeper and hostess. The ultimate reconciliation is hardly likely to last, but it winds the piece up prettily. There was delightful playing by Jill Ladstone as Lydia and Clive Merrison as Vassilov, with Jeremy Child and Maurice Denham as men-about-town.

Michael Kittermaster's *The Thirty Year Rule*, Wednesday's Afternoon Theatre on Radio 4, seemed like a sketch for a more important play. Aubrey (John Carson), once an African

RADIO

S. A. YOUNG

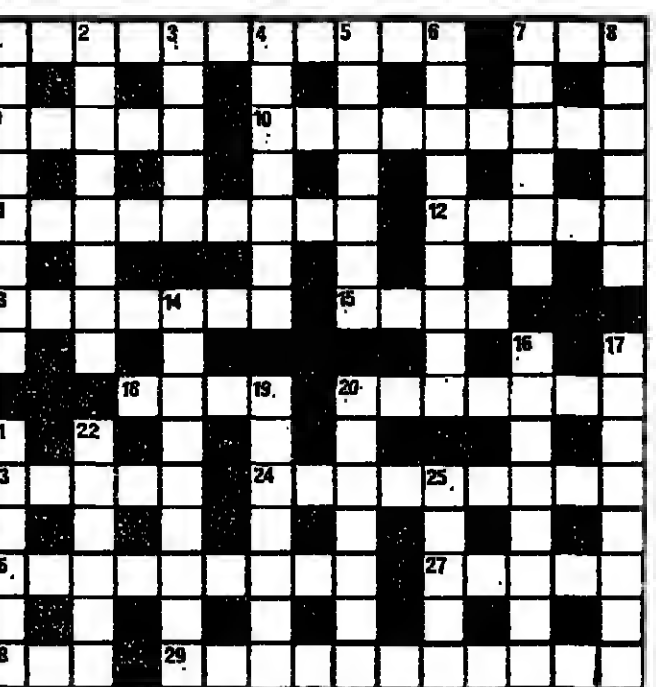
provincial officer, now a junior Minister, has a young wife, Susan (Patience Young), childlike in her lack of understanding of both social and political life. Mataka (Hugh Quarshie), an African student who has been badgering Aubrey for information about a revolt in his country 30 years before, calls when Aubrey is out and Susan offers him the flat over the garage if he will do the garden.

Naturally Aubrey resents this, but Mataka reveals that he knows of an adverse report about to be released, and mails his hints about it to Aubrey. Surely there must be more? The revelation that Mataka is the hereditary chief makes a dramatic point, but does nothing to the story; nor does Susan's threat that if Mataka goes, she'll go too. The play seems to stop in the middle.

F.T. CROSSWORD PUZZLE No. 5,102

A prize of £10 will be given to each of the senders of the first three correct solutions opened. Solutions must be received by *the Times* crossword puzzle editor, 10, Cannon Street, London EC4P 4BY. Winners and solution will be given next Saturday.

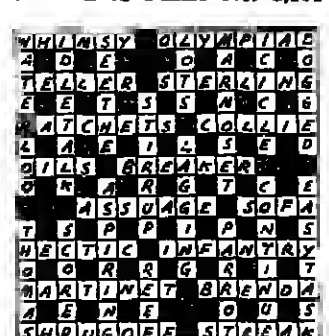
Name
Address



ACROSS

- 1 Music centre in lane aptly-revealed (3, 3)
- 2 Member of national side coming under the hammer (3)
- 3 When is vigils of St. Tih held in outskirts of North-amer? (5)
- 4 Bit cut for Manchester (4-5)
- 5 Describ what is led back that is brimzing in oxen (9)
- 6 Doctor's home note? (5)
- 7 No place for this one too fused (4-3)
- 8 Divers in Sargasso mercantile trade (4)
- 9 Fine wordwork (4)
- 10 One cannot recall having it (7)
- 11 Present time for mouse to run down, descending steeply (5)
- 12 Alan Home's circulating library? (9)
- 13 Remote possibility of catch at point, for example (3-6)
- 14 Send back first-class piece of bone (3)
- 15 Pitch over alert (3)
- 16 Patience after something said (4-7)
- 17 Many chais about Chichester, perhaps (9)
- 18 No backslider at home in bamboo surroundings (6)
- 19 Ari of government often includes third party elements (6)
- 20 Here is spectacle-case—see Harrow in a new light (5-4)
- 21 French seem to follow Anglo-Saxon leader in this holiday (4)
- 22 Did it mark principal after-most position of common sailors? (8)
- 23 Coach requiring some extra in erograph reading (7)
- 24 Is it left by a fringe-range? (3-4)
- 25 New growth in translation of Proust (6)
- 26 Star of cough—tender, old chest? (6)
- 27 eg Tarka, feeling the eat more (5)

Solution to Puzzle No. 5,101



- 1 One fated, cruelly, not to enjoy music (4-4)
- 2 Roll of top sailors? (4-4)
- 3 Scottish isle almost notorious (5)
- 4 Bais in a mix-up; choose not to take sides (7)
- 5 Nothing in U.S. Nihil measures arouses suspicious

BBC 1

Indicates programme to black and white

6.25-8.35 am Open University.
9.00 Hold Down a Chord. 9.15 Saturday Superstore. 12.15 pm Weather.
12.15 Grandstand, including 12.45 News Summary; Football Focus (12.50); Racing from Cheltenham (1.20, 1.30, 1.50); Rallying (1.10) The Swedish Rally; Rugby Union (2.10, 4.00) Scotland v Wales from Murrayfield; and at 4.00 from Lansdowne Road, Ireland v France; 1.50 Half-time soccer scores, news and reports; 4.35 Final Score.

5.10 News.
5.20 Regional Variations.
5.25 The Dukes of Hazzard.
6.15 Jim'll Fix It.
6.50 The Saturday Film: "Sam Whiskey" starring Burt Reynolds and Angie Dickinson.
8.25 The Les Dawson Show.
9.00 News and Sport.
9.15 Dynasty.
10.05 Wogan.
10.50 Saturday Late Film: "Monty Python's and Now For Something Completely Different".

REGIONAL VARIATIONS:
Wales—3.20-5.25 pm Sports News Wales.
Scotland—3.20-5.25 pm Score-board. 12.15 am Scottish News Summary.

Northern Ireland—12.15-5.10 pm Grandstand—As BBC1. 12.15-2.10 pm then as follows: 2.10 Amateur Boxing. 2.55 Rugby Union Ireland v France. 4.25 Rugby, Scotland v Wales (highlights). 4.35 Final Score. 5.00 Northern Ireland Results. 12.15 am Northern Ireland News Headlines.

England—3.20-5.25 pm London and the South-East: Sport; South-West (Plymouth); Spotlight Sport; All other English regions: Sport/Regional News.
6.25 am-3.10 pm Open University.
3.20 Saturday Cinema Double Bill: "Duel in the Jungle" starring Jeanne Crain and Dana Andrews, and at 5.00 "The Black Knight" starring Alan Ladd.
6.25 Buongiorno Italia!
6.50 Sight and Sound in Concert (simultaneously broadcast on Radio 1).

BBC 2

6.25 am-3.10 pm Open University.
3.20 Saturday Cinema Double Bill: "Duel in the Jungle" starring Jeanne Crain and Dana Andrews, and at 5.00 "The Black Knight" starring Alan Ladd.
6.25 Buongiorno Italia!
6.50 Sight and Sound in Concert (simultaneously broadcast on Radio 1).

SOLUTION AND WINNERS PUZZLE No. 5096

Mrs R. Abrahamson, 277 Beverley Road, Kirkcaldy, Hull 7A7.
Mr L. Fraser, 35 Dalvenle Road, Bancroft, Grampian AB3 3QUX.
Mr C. H. Card, 18 Nelson Road, Goring by Sea, Worthing, Sussex.

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SOLUTION AND WINNERS PUZZLE No. 5096

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Mr L. Fraser, 35 Dalvenle Road, Bancroft, Grampian AB3 3QUX.
Mr C. H. Card, 18 Nelson Road, Goring by Sea, Worthing, Sussex.

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Saturday February 19 1983

Somebody has to pay up

IF THIS is a recovery, as the optimists proclaim, there is still a lot of pain around. British Rail announces a closure at Shildon, in the North East, which will raise local unemployment to 60 per cent; the railways may get cheaper equipment, but the taxpayer will be footing the bill for a long time. In Tennessee, another smallish bank goes bust, while in Brazil the financing for a purchase of jet airliners may have fallen apart. Meanwhile in Washington the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, Mr Paul Volcker, confesses to the Senate that his efforts to assist recovery by getting interest rates down have been defeated, for the time being, in the financial markets.

This last news is by far the most significant, because it carries a message about the future, rather than the recent past. All hopes for a recovery in the near term rest, in some sense, on the expectation of substantially lower real interest rates, which is why Mrs Thatcher was so enraged, on her return from the Falklands, to find that the London market had been allowed to raise rates again. Only with normal real interest rates can the debtors countries see a realistic way forward; only then can companies be expected to spend their profits on expansion rather than paying off debt, and to rebuild the stocks they have run down so drastically.

Financial markets block recovery

Why, then, do the interest rates demanded in financial markets continue to block any sustained recovery, rather than falling, as is the normal pattern in a recession? The answer, in a sense, is that the recession is not nearly deep enough. In a real catastrophe, such as the London suffered 50 years ago, demand collapses and bankruptcies are wholesale; in the financial rubble left behind, investors were grateful to get any return on their money. Mr Chamberlain, for example, was able to refinance the British national debt at 2½ per cent.

This time, we are resisting catastrophe. Social security provisions ensure that the railway engineers of Shildon will continue to get some sort of living income, which they will spend. Through miracles of rescheduling and arm twisting, potential bad debts are transformed into long-term claims—questionable, perhaps, but not actually repaid. We creep gingerly along the edge of the abyss, from handhold to handhold.

There is a price to be paid

for these efforts. Governments with humane social programmes find that recession imposes an ever-widening deficit—except in Britain, where this inexorable logic is masked, for the time being, by the revenue flow from the North Sea. Banks, fearing future bad debts, are constrained to push up their profit margins, impeding any fall in short term rates. Meanwhile bond investors see an ever-lengthening queue of bidders for their savings—growing government deficits, companies trying to turn debt into equity, and now, it is believed, the International Monetary Fund seeking to finance its own rescue efforts.

Struggle to ward off destitution

It is this fear of crowding out, or alternatively of an inflationary attempt to monetise debt—through cash injection by the Fed, or the free issue of SDRs demanded by the developing countries—which is the real road block, as Mr Volcker points out. The authorities struggle to ward off the threats of bankruptcy and destitution; investors wonder how debts are to be honoured and living standards maintained in a depressed world economy. Something doesn't add up.

That is why, despite the efforts of the central banks to achieve a smooth though painfully slow financial reconstruction through bail-outs and rescheduling, a small but persistent chorus of experts call for more radical solutions. Merchant bankers such as Lazard Freres in New York and Morgan Grenfell in London have fathered a family of schemes to substitute long-term, low-coupon debt for the short floating-rate obligations of the poorer countries, imposing a loss on the lenders—a kind of merchant banker's revenge on the commercial banks.

Modest guaranteed real income

Mr Norman Bailey of the National Security Council in Washington proposes kind of sovereign equity—a tax on the debtor's exports rather than a money rate of interest. It was perhaps a similar thought that inspired Sir Geoffrey Howe to offer investors a modest guaranteed real income, indexed to long-term inflation, as an alternative to a high money income of uncertain real value. Some such radicalism may well be needed before we can complete the reconstruction and create the financial conditions for recovery.

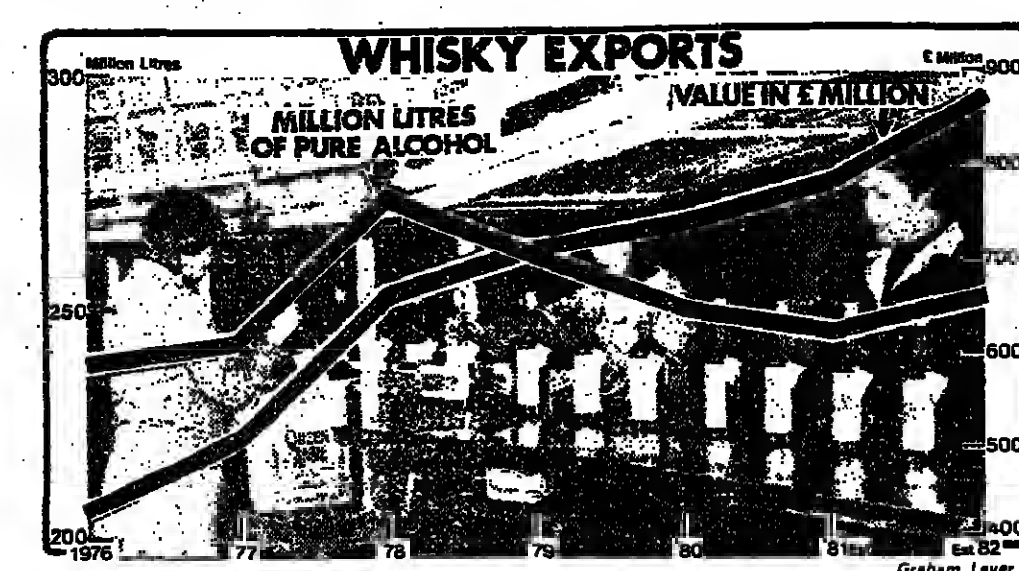
SCOTLAND takes knocks to its whisky industry very hard and Distillers' cutbacks announced this week have hurt badly.

Not only is Scotch deeply embodied in the national character, it is an important source of employment in Scotland where, according to a 1981 estimate, there were 21,000 employed from distilling to bottling. That number was already down from over 23,000 in 1979 and has fallen further since but should be seen against Scotch whisky exports valued last year at \$871m.

Scotland has about 20 whisky companies, but Distillers' (DCL) has a commanding position in the business, employing half the total workforce, and whisky in turn accounts for well over three quarters of the profits of the drinks, food and industrial gases conglomerate. Brand names such as Johnnie Walker, Dewar's, Black and White, White Horse, Haig and Vat 69 compete against each other in a world market worth about \$1bn.

This week DCL announced that 330 jobs would go at distilleries dotted from the Isle of Laysay off the west coast to remote Brora in Sutherland in the north. Eleven of the company's 45 malt distilleries and one of its five grain distilleries are to be closed. And this follows last month's decision by Haig to close another plant in Fife, which cost 320 jobs.

In Scotland's rural areas, distilling, legal or otherwise, has gone on for centuries. In



some small villages the distillery is the only source of jobs—and companies have relied on local expertise for the skilful blending of selected malt whiskies with grain whiskies. It is this tradition which, according to several analysts, has prompted many companies to run their distilleries and bottling plants on short time for the past year rather than take more savage measures.

But the prolonged recession has now finally pushed the biggest employer to make the cuts.

The whisky business is a peculiarly difficult one. The industry has always to think six years ahead—the average time it takes for whisky to mature.

The buoyant market in the early 1970s encouraged companies to produce and lay down extra stocks. Distillers' calculates that the recession has played havoc with its forecasts, knocking 15 per cent out of the worldwide market.

The inbuilt cushion of maturing stock has thus turned into a financial millstone. What ever complex forecasting models are used to determine future sales, there is no escaping the fact that stocks need to be sold before costs can be covered.

A number of independent companies produce their own brands and feed some of the larger works with bulk supplies. The independent malt dis-

tillers who have unsold stocks on their hands, have responded to the present situation by selling bulk shipments of malt cheaply—it is the malt element in a whisky blend which cannot be duplicated elsewhere. Rotterdam, for example, has a market for spot bulk whisky as well as oil.

Producers at home and abroad have used this whisky to manufacture cheap brands. Supermarket chains have also been able to discount "own brands".

Whisky sales have thus polarised. De luxe malt whiskies and cheaper brands have gained at the expense of medium-priced whiskies. Thus select single malt whiskies have

UK WHISKY SALES MARKET SHARE

1978	1981
Bells (24%)	Bells (24%)
(Arthur Bell)	(Arthur Bell)
Teachers (15%)	Teachers (15%)
(Allied)	(Allied)
Haig (13%)	Famous Grouse (8%)
(DCL)	(Highland Distilleries)
Grant's (7%)	Haig (8%)
(Wm. Grant)	(DCL)
White Horse (6%)	Claymore (8%)
(DCL)	(DCL)
Famous Grouse (3-4%)	White Horse (7%)
(Highland Distilleries)	(DCL)

Source: FT estimates

held up in price.

Amid all this turmoil, however, there are signs of some improvement. The indicators, picked up by analysts at stockbrokers Wood Mackenzie, include an end to destocking in the trade, leading to reasonable recovery in exports of 1-2 per cent in 1983 and growth of about 3 per cent this year. But Distillers' does not see the end of the recession and points out it will take a long time for any sales recovery to translate into a significant increase in production. DCL is now forecasting long-term growth of 3 or 4 per cent but from a much lower base.

Mr Mark Godridge of stockbrokers de Zoete and Bevan

estimates that trade stocks are now down from about six months supply to three. He says the real turning point will come when the producers themselves are able to start reducing their stockpiles.

It is in the export market where DCL will be looking for the main recovery. Export sales account for 85 per cent of group profits now as opposed to 70 per cent in 1978 according to Wood Mackenzie.

Exports are showing signs of some improvement and any recovery in the U.S. in the second quarter should start to show improvements in whisky consumption. In any case sales to Central and South America, Europe and Africa and the Far East have improved, from \$7.7 to \$8.8 per cent of group sales between 1976 and 1982 according to Wood Mackenzie. This has reduced the dependence on the U.S. market.

In the meantime at home DCL faces an aggressive company whose managing director, Raymond Miquel, has been able to ask "what recession?" His company, Bells, has shown fast growth from a market capitalisation of \$10.5m in 1973 to a present value of \$230m. Bells one hand holds 20 per cent of the UK market and has seen an elevenfold increase in exports from \$3m to \$33m in a decade.

Well behind Bells come Teachers, part of Allied Breweries with 15 per cent and then Highland Distilleries. Famous Grouse tied with Haig in third place.

The U.S. battle for consumer loyalty

By Paul Taylor in New York

IF THE recession has turned anyone drunk in the U.S. it is not to Scotch.

Sales of imported Scotch in the U.S. the industry's most important export market, plunged by about 9 per cent last year while shipments fell by around 11 per cent reflecting a significant reduction in wholesaler and retailer inventory levels.

The decline in sales has hit all segments of the market. Sales of "super premium" brands like Chivas Regal and Johnnie Walker Black Label, once considered immune from the effects of an economic downturn, have faltered for the first time.

Last year sales of bulk brands, until recently the major growth section of the market, also fell sharply. But perhaps most disturbingly it was the middle-priced premium brands selling for between \$12 and \$16 a bottle which bore the brunt of the sales slump.

The four premium brands, J and B (JWB) Dewar's (DCL), Johnnie Walker Red Label (DCL), and Cutty Sark (Berry Bros), dominate this section of the market, each selling between 1.5m and 2m cases a year.

Yet the premium brands are also the most vulnerable to changes in consumer tastes,

pricing and the economic environment. Mr John Heilmann, president and chief executive of Somerset Importers, the Norton Simon subsidiary which imports the Johnnie Walker brands, said yesterday: "The battle will be won or lost in the premium category."

The battle is principally one over consumer tastes, pricing and promotion. In all three areas the industry has been losing out in the U.S. for the past decade.

A Seagram official blamed the recession and changing tastes for the decline in Scotch sales in the U.S. "Just look at the figures. They tell the whole story and it does not come as any big surprise," the official said.

But in common with other major Scotch distillers, Seagram is reluctant to dismiss the current state of the U.S. market. Most major importers are, however, projecting a further decline in Scotch sales this year, perhaps by 2 or 3 per cent.

Scotch first became a popular drink in the U.S. following the Second World War as servicemen returning from Europe brought home an acquired taste for the product. But those consumers are getting older and the new generation of drinkers in the U.S. were

weaned on Coke and other sweet tasting soft drinks.

By the late 1950s the Scotch market was under attack as the younger generation of non drinkers turned to "mixables" like vodka and gin followed by white rum and then to wine.

Mr Heilmann characterises the shift in tastes as one towards "lightness"—lightness

of colour, taste and alcoholic content.

The Scotch whisky industry was slow to adapt to this change in fashion although two of the premium brands, Cutty Sark and J and B did in fact adjust their blends slightly in response.

Nevertheless the change in consumer taste was firmly set.

"Twenty years ago if you offered someone a cocktail party a Tequila Sunrise they might have turned round and said 'Gee that looks nice but I am a Scotch drinker.' Today do the same thing and they would pro-

bably say 'Gee that looks nice, thanks very much,' says Mr Heilmann.

"The consumption pattern has changed," he said. "People are willing to experiment drinking less at a time but on more occasions."

The other major factor accelerating the decline of Scotch sales in the U.S. has been

A new generation of drinkers has turned to 'mixables' like vodka and gin, followed by white rum and finally wine

New York today, the consumer can almost buy two bottles of premium vodka or rum.

When the recession hit the U.S. that price differential really began to tell. Consumers either traded down to the cheaper bulk brands which are imported and bottled in the U.S. and sell for up to \$10 a litre bottle, or out of the Scotch market altogether.

The key question which Mr Heilmann believes the industry must now address is whether or not the change in consumer tastes is a permanent one or whether the industry could do more to improve the "fashionability" of Scotch.

If the industry is to halt the decline of Scotch sales in the U.S. then importers believe two things must happen. First the price of Scotch must be held down or even reduced. Second the industry will have to further increase its \$30m to \$35m a year advertising and promotion budget.

However, some industry insiders doubt whether the distillers have the stomach for either.

The major distillers are unwilling to speculate on the longer market prospects. However there are slight indications that 1983 may prove to be something of a turning point for the industry.

Mr Heilmann believes that the pendulum of taste may have begun to swing back towards stronger tasting spirits like Scotch. Some evidence for this view is provided by the healthy sales figures, despite a knock-out by bourbon distillers, and a resurgence of interest in single malts.

Glenlivet and Glenfiddich are the two major single malts sold in the U.S. and although single malts account for a tiny proportion of the shrinking U.S. Scotch market, selling about 350,000 cases a year, sales appear to be firm.

The other hopeful indication is that some distillers do appear to be making an attempt to come to grips with the question of the image of a Scotch drinker in the U.S.

Last year Bell's launched a campaign to carve out a niche for itself in the U.S. market where it currently has virtually no presence. To achieve that objective the company is attempting to market the brand to a younger customer.

While most industry analysts in the U.S. are doubtful whether Bell's will succeed in the current sales environment they are willing to accept that the company may have hit upon a sales and promotion strategy which could be adopted by others within the industry.

Letters to the Editor

Dollars

From Mr A. Horsnail
Sir—Perhaps your powerful summary of the Ditchley meeting should be required reading for all (Economic Viewpoint February 10). Anthony Harris says, as I understand it, the severe world debt problems will not be resolved until there is a recovery in global demand levels and, in turn, this will not happen until real interest rates are much lower.

Apparently, the Ditchley experts perceived the root of the problem in "wrong Government policies"—especially the U.S. fiscal deficit. Some other students of affairs might suggest that difficulties in the practical application of monetary control policies are equally to blame.

For example, it is very difficult to reconcile U.S. figures for the fourth quarter of 1982, when money supply continued to grow at a 10 per cent to 15 per cent clip, with the fact that price changes were virtually zero and manufacturing output fell by 4 per cent. This money supply rise excludes most of the post Christmas data when the figures were boosted by the inclusion of new demand deposit accounts. Why is it that money supply is still rising so rapidly despite clear evidence that the U.S. economy has been brought to its knees?

I believe that many major trading companies are leaving a higher proportion of their assets in U.S. dollars and that it is virtually impossible for the U.S. Federal Reserve to sift international funds from domestic funds. My experience is that with U.S. dollar interest rates and a strong dollar exchange rate there is a case for holding a much higher proportion of business assets in dollars, but borrowings in other currencies are up to compensate. With trading leads and lags, dollar swaps and speculations in the money market it is almost impossible to segregate international dollars from domestic dollars. It is possible therefore that U.S. money numbers will continue to frighten financial

markets into leaving interest rate at unacceptably high levels. The question arises how do we solve this catch 22 situation?
A. G. Horsnail,
22, City Road, EC1

Change

From Mr P. Dignam

Sir—I wish to draw attention to a fundamental and unfortunately widespread error concerning the relationship between the payment of statutory and occupational sick pay. Occupational sick pay is not "additional" to SSP as reported in your columns on February 7 ("Sick pay rules change prompts better schemes"); they are in fact paid together as part of each other, the lesser being contained within the greater. That is to say, if the OSP is \$90.00 per week and the SSP is \$40.25 per week, then the employee would still receive only \$90.00, but \$40.25 of that will be notionally deemed to be SSP, and this therefore becomes recoverable by the employer from his NI contributions.

This vital point about the nature of the offsetting process has been widely misconceived by trade union negotiators, those responsible for OSP schemes and the agreements for qualifying days and particularly by those software designers involved in the amendment and redevelopment of payroll systems.

The gains to be made by optimising sick pay arrangements could well fund the considerable administrative burden of SSP; employers should be examining in great detail this critical area.

Peter Dignam,
Oxgate Farm,
Coles Green Road, NW2.

Protection

From Mr J. Barry

Sir—There has been a good deal of discussion during the last year about the protection of investors' assets and the overall conduct of investment

advisers, in particular the independent and smaller companies involved in giving advice to the private investor.

Professor Gower has examined ways in which the existing legislation can be tightened and the proposed new rules for licensed dealers in securities should go a considerable way towards ensuring that such companies are run in a competent and honest manner.

Many of the proposed new rules however rely not only on the accuracy with which firms report to the Department of Trade, but also place a considerable burden on the department to examine and follow up such returns made to them by investment advisers.

I believe that there may be a relatively simple solution to this problem which to some extent is already in practice in some firms. All licensed dealers should be subjected to regular check-ups by an auditor appointed by the department. This audit would examine the procedures used by firms in handling their clients' investments and would probably be paid for by the licensed dealers themselves.

J. A. J. Barry,
Berry Asset Management,
8th Floor,
Brettenham House,
Lancaster Place, WC2

Title

From the Financial Director,
James Latham

Sir—There now seems well-established precedence that when a supplier has a retention of title clause within his conditions of sale, and where the buyer is in default, that the supplier is entitled to the return of his goods. This principle was established in the Romalpa and subsequently in the Borden (UK) judgments.

It is therefore very depressing that receivers still choose to haggle when a supplier wishes to assert his legitimate rights for the return of his goods; indeed, many receivers will not budge until solicitors' letters have passed and, in some

instances, legal action has been initiated. Most receivers are appointed under charges taken on assets by banks. One reads in your columns of the numerous companies which banks are having to support. The actions of receivers in fighting even, to them, modest retention of title claims, are making life difficult for the survivors.

May I suggest, sir, that the time has now come for the banks to ensure that the receivers they appoint understand the rudiments of commercial law.

Christopher Latham,
Leaside Wharf,
Mount Pleasant Hill,
Clapton, E5.

Skills

From the Vice-Chancellor,
University of Salford

Sir—You are right to draw attention to the continuing and lamentable gap between academic and vocational studies in our schools in your article of February 14. The Manpower Services Commission's new scheme, although very welcome in itself, will do little to bridge that gap and could make it wider.

The need, as you rightly say, is for those destined for senior positions in society to acquire for themselves and to value in others practical skills. You are on less firm ground, however, when you criticise these "universities which were set up to emphasise the development of technical and other practical skills" for not recognising qualifications other than "A" levels. This university, for example, draws approximately 20 per cent of its annual student intake from candidates with non-"A" level qualifications. We have also decided to follow the recommendations of the engineering professors conference which, in March 1982, urged universities to accept "A" level qualifications in technology and design as suitable "third subjects" for the purposes of university entrance. This university's teaching aims, inter alia, "to result in graduates with

the capacity to identify, formulate and then solve problems and to make, design, organise or produce or construct useful objects and services."

Of course, it could be that these characteristics are precisely those that led the University Grants Committee, with Ministerial endorsement, to cut our recurrent grant by more than any other university in July 1981, but that is another story.

(Professor) John Ashworth,
University of Salford, Salford.

Acrow

From Mr K. Speyer

Sir—Ray Maughan (Feb 12) reports on "concluded" negotiations between Acrow and various banks resulting in a charge on all Acrow's assets in favour of bankers, and that "agreement" has been reached with Acrow's debenture and loan holders.

This loan stock holder knows of no such agreement nor would be party to it when directors agree to give the banks preferential treatment over loan and other creditors. A situation very nice for the banks in making their place more secure at the expense of the latter.

The finance director is reported to say that the capital structure of Acrow did not permit raising of additional equity finance.

The directors' control rests on a tiny voting capital wagging a large unfranchised shareholding body. The position seems to be: rather give the banks favoured treatment over other creditors to retain their continued support than enfranchise all shareholders, which could of course lead to loss of voting control by the present management, loss of profitable jobs (unearned when leading to losses as hitherto), and possibly a bid.

K. G. Speyer,
208, City Road, EC1

Indexation

From Mr H. E. Rylands

Sir—I have just seen a copy of a working guide to the

indexation of capital gains for professional advisers. It contains over 80 pages of foolscap size.

The Treasury officials who devised the very complicated rules for indexation must have been out of their minds if they thought that they would be comprehensible to the average investor. Professional advisers, especially accountants, will be laughing all the way to the bank and the Inland Revenue will no doubt be pressing for more staff to cope with the problems.

H. E. Rylands,
The Red House,
Dunham Massey,
Altrincham, Cheshire.

Water

From Mr C. Trinder

Sir—The water workers want a wage settlement that will lift them into the top quarter of the manual weekly earnings league and give them parity with gas and electricity workers. The two objectives may mean the same thing at the present time, but have not in the past. During the 1970s gas and electricity earnings were considerably below the top quarter of the earnings league and only recently have they made significant strides up the league table. Single year comparisons can be misleading but in 1978 average earnings in gas and electricity seemed to be roughly in line with average earnings for the economy as a whole. Water workers were in that position in 1982 but by then the gas and electricity workers were in the highest paid 25 per cent.

The committee of inquiry which you say (February 17) will receive evidence by seroplane, discuss it by telephone, have an oral session on Saturday and publish a written report on Sunday will have done a good job if it sorts out issues like this with a timetable like that.

Chris Trinder,
National Institute of Economic and Social Research,
2 Dean Trench Street,
Smith Square SW1.

How to compare Executive Pension Schemes

If you are concerned with assessing the merits of individual executive pension schemes you know that it can be both difficult and time-consuming. That is why the new fifth edition of Executive Pensions will be invaluable to you.

Executive Pensions looks at over 90 pension schemes currently on the market and provides a full analysis of the three main types of policies available: with profits, unit-linked and deposit administration. Each scheme shows the charges, variability of premiums, paid up values and other important factors.

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Ian Hargreaves meets the women of Greenham Common

OUTSIDE THE heavily guarded main gate of RAF Greenham Common in rural Berkshire, Jane Bennett has decided it is time for the still sleeping portion of the world's most famous peace event to get up.

Slowly, the women emerge from their flapping canopies of plastic sheets draped over washing lines which, since Newbury Council imposed its ban on structures on the common, have served as home for the 20-month-old peace camp. Their welcome is a blackened pan of cheerfully overboiled Batchelor's minestrone soup. "We're another day closer to Armageddon," says Jane to the reporter. "We cannot live with this tension."

"Anna, what are the hard bits in here?" asks a well-spoken voice. Clearly someone who has not yet adjusted to life around a campfire which, through two winters, has provided the only source of heat and the only place to cook.

But it is 10 am and the day is already well advanced for most of the peace women. A mile further along the camp's perimeter, at the "green gate" or works entrance, 41 women have already been arrested that morning for obstructing lorries. Three miles away at Newbury Magistrates' Court, an earlier batch of 43 protesters is into the second day of a hearing. They climbed into the base on New Year's Day and danced on the concrete silo, which, by December, is destined to hold 96 American cruise missiles.

Jane, a blooming 60-year-old widow with shoulder-length hair and six grown-up children, came to Greenham last September as an expression, primarily, of her Bennite politics and long-standing support for CND.

It was bloody awful at first. I just went to bed every night thinking "I can't just stand this. I shall have to go." Now I feel good, even though the weather is colder. Nothing could make me leave now," she says. "This is one thing in the whole world that's giving hope to women."

Around the fire, the novices who have missed the earlier action are wondering what comes next. Anna Minogue, an unemployed 20-year-old Londoner, was one of the 30,000 women who on December 12 "embraced the base" in a nine-mile chain; a gesture whose undiluted emotional impact did more to raise the temperature of the British disarmament debate than anything else last year. She has returned to support those in court and because she likes the camp. "Before December, I didn't realise there was anything I could do about it," she says.

The same experience is recounted by dozens of women who pass briefly through the camp each week, rotating around a permanent or near-permanent core of about 25. Jane has not been to her home in Derby since September and is one of 19 women who have qualified for the Newbury electoral roll.

Some, a small minority, support political causes of the Far Left; many, perhaps a majority, are deeply committed feminists, but they come in all ages, shapes and sizes and from all backgrounds.

Anna Fraser, 36, is up from Camarthen in Wales, for a few days with her sons, Adam and William. From behind her soldered-up NHS spectacles, Anna, like many of the married women involved, says that she is doing it for her children.

Julie Knight, 32, has two children at home in Worthington with her husband, Geoff, a plumber. Monday was their wedding anniversary and Geoff managed to get into the camp to deliver a rose to the camp.

Why is she there? "An opinion poll about four years ago said 40 per cent of people believe there will be a nuclear war within 10 years. My daughter came up to me and said: 'That means I will be 19 when I die.'"

It is the gaunt simplicity of such emotions which captured the response of the world on

'An opinion poll said 40 per cent of people think there'll be a nuclear war within 10 years. My daughter said: "That means I'll be 19 when I die"'

December 12 and which is still bringing between 50 and 100 letters a day to the old fridge which serves as the camp's post box.

On Wednesday, there was a letter from the Democratic Women's League in Austria, letters from the U.S. and EU from a man in Solihull, who also sent a poem. In freezing February miles from the coast, a free copy of a book called *Nude Sea Bathing is the closest thing to hate mail*.

"What we really need," says Jane, "is Cortez sleeping bags." These outdoor hags will be used if Newbury Council succeeds through the High Court next week in rescinding the unfettered right of citizens to take air on the common. Xeroxed affidavits for the case are nailed



Ashley Ashwood

to a stake in the camp, like some railroad company's land title in a wild west drama.

But between the council and legal success, the women say, will also stand hundreds, perhaps thousands, of women who plan to descend upon London on Tuesday to register themselves as members of the camp and to "embrace the court." Letters are going out to 1,000 women's groups — not peace groups, necessarily — which are, says Jane, "the key to our organisation."

Support from backstage also comes from CND, although some women resent this as interference and are annoyed that their second mass embrace of the Greenham Common base at Easter will also, under a CND plan, link up with a mixed sex human chain across 14 miles to the Burghfield atomic

weapons centre and to Aldermaston.

Today, however, there are battles closer to home. "Who's coming to court?" someone asks. Everyone is.

Outside Newbury Court, 70 women are already keeping watch, talking, smoking, slithering. "We are the weavers, we are the web," they sing, in a reference to the woolen webs they spin over fences and walls, gates and trees wherever the protest passes, in an ambivalent symbol of entrapment and unity.

When the court adjourns for lunch, women stride out to embrace, tears, more grey hair, some pink. The ages of those on trial range from 17 to 72.

Back at the camp, more visitors are arriving. There is

a Japanese woman in an exotic hat and part of the CND group from prosperous Bradford-on-Avon. Was the camp what they expected? One, who would not look out of place at a Tory Party wine and cheese evening, surveys the duckboards, the gold tinsel threaded in the bare trees, the dirt and the piles of straw which serve as seating and says, with a smile, "pretty much so, yes."

But even these visitors are in no doubt that an all-women camp makes sense, on the grounds that it decreases the chances of serious violence and attracts more publicity. Who even knows about the eight mixed sex peace camps at other British bases? Who indeed?

For many of the peace camp residents, however, the ban on men is more fundamental than this. Over at the green gate, a nearer settlement with real tents, a male reporter is politely but firmly asked to leave this "women only" zone.

Back in Newbury, emotions are rising. The women have been found guilty, but it remains to be seen how many will refuse to be bound over to keep the peace and so be sent to jail.

Singing, mixed with oriental-style, funeral wailing, begins in earnest. "You can't kill the spirit, she is like a mousetrap, old and strong, she goes on and on." At "you can't forbid my tears to flow," Jane and others are weeping, but the smiles return with more militant rhythms: "You may drive a big machine... but you just can't take my dreams away."

Unexpectably, from nowhere, a police car lunges into the screaming crowd. "You see what I told you," says Julie. "I believed in our policemen until I came here. I don't know what's happening."

But the drama is soon over. The six women who have agreed to binding over emerge, one with a saxophone. The other 36 later, in vans bound for Holloway Prison.

Julie asks for a lift back to

the camp, but stops to phone Geoff. "We've got our mortgage," she says, "and Geoff wants to know if I can get back a day early to sign the papers. I'd have to be able just to put the kettle on and make a cup of coffee or something."

At the camp, two women are drawing water from the mains connection across the road and pellets are being broken up to stoke the fire. Jane wants volunteers to address envelopes for the High Court campaign. Three leave for the house of a sympathiser, four miles away, where the camp has a telephone and a desk.

Around the fire, where all decisions are made, the discussion is of tactics and next steps. Some believe co-ordinated, industrial action is possible. "I'm not sure how much of an organisation I'm going to lead," says one woman.

The truth, however, is that the peace camp has no general strategy beyond surviving and adding to its numbers. Decisions about whether to block the road or occupy the base are taken spontaneously with each woman present deciding her own role: cook, holder, legal observer or participant.

They show little interest in the latest issue of the CND magazine, *Sanity*, in which Annie Tunncliffe, a member of CND's council, argues that the growth of feminism at Greenham may lead to "an unnecessary and dangerously divisive split in the peace movement."

Jill and Barbara, two of the core residents, return dejected. "Half the family is gone," moans Jill, who then proceeds to recount her own experiences of prison brutality. At 41, she is a veteran, but her words frighten others and one woman begins to cry. "Where have all the women disappeared to? We need more women," wails Barbara.

As the events of the day are picked over and the kettle boils, interpretations are drawn like a whirlpool to the women's central conviction: they are victims of a sophisticated regime, of

male-dominated violence, whether that violence expresses itself in atomic missiles, policemen or sexual politics.

It is Jill who shakes the mood of apprehension. "We'll set up a peace camp at Holloway," she says. "We'll do it tonight. Where are the Gories bags?"

"Tonight?" says Barbara. "Tonight," says Jill. Another van load of women from the court arrives, one of them with a minivan made. "Look what mummy made," she laughs and plunks it on the fire. Mummy, a few paces behind, plump and ordinary, beams.

"Hello, we are from Sweden, may we stay here for some nights?" says another voice from the darkness. Four Swedish women, with spottles nylon rucksacks, have brought greetings and money from the Swedish peace movement. They are unimpressed and offered Jill's tent for the night.

"We're going to Holloway," says Barbara to the stew party. "Can we go in the van?" Jill dances off into the darkness singing: "Tonight's the night." Barbara's eyes are sparkling again.

It is time for the Financial Times to depart. Four women want a lift back to London. These four are the young, some would say the extreme end of the women's peace movement. Two say they are lesbians and will not under any circumstances work in a mixed sex political group with communists and "male structures." They don't believe the Labour Party is a party of delivering disarmament; indeed they are not much interested in parties.

But they believe in Greenham. There, they say, they find warmth, friendship and the opportunity to express themselves. They say they think they will win, but they admit: "I came to Greenham first because it's a women's camp and second because it's about peace."

"We have to have our space, away from men," says Sarah. "Let them work it out their own way."

Weekend Brief

Athletes and 'born-again' Christians

Sue Barker, one of the growing band of sportsmen and women, who have become "born-again Christians," told me about her faith.

"It has given me a bigger incentive to work at my tennis. The Bible tells us to find what we do best and to do it to our utmost ability. I feel now I am serving Jesus through my tennis," she said.

"My faith has been growing over the past five years. Of course, I was at school at a convent so that I was brought up to be aware of God. But even when I was doing well with my tennis I felt there was something missing in my life. So 15 months ago I made my commitment."

"My faith is the most important thing in my life — that is why being around with Cliff (Richard) is so marvellous — we have so much in common. 'Born-again Christians' like us believe we must live our whole lives for Christ as against those Christians who merely go to church."

"Many of the tennis players are 'born-again Christians' — on the tour we live for Him — we let our tennis shine through us for Him. Many of the girls on this tour are worried about their lives. They like to talk to me about my faith. I tell them I've got my life in better perspective now. I no longer put pressure on myself to win at all costs."

In every sport there are many who are the potential for greatness but the ones who reach the top are those whose mental powers lift them above their peers. Ambition, dedication, concentration, single-mindedness, ruthlessness and pride of performance are some of the necessary qualities."

Performing in the goldfish bowl of his chosen arena where public expectation is heightened by intensive TV coverage, during play, and where home life is invaded by an insensitive Press, the athlete has to bear an awesome burden of pressure. Some crack under the strain, and turn to drink or drugs.

At the highest level of international competition, especially in single combat sports where often huge rewards turn on the result, the performer who is stretched to the limits of physical capacity, experiences a loneliness, an isolation, that raises fundamental questions about his or her place in the universe, and also more mundane problems like how to cope if one's game is on a losing streak.

An increasing number of athletes seek the answers in religion. Many prominent past and present sportsmen are proud to proclaim themselves "born-again Christians" though of course many Christian sportsmen come to their faith in other ways. Whatever the route their faith draws attention to it, Sue Barker is tennis, Ian Bolton and Alan West in soccer, are well known for their views over here and in America. Barker, heavy weight



Two of those who sought answers in religion: boxer George Foreman and tennis player Sue Barker

champion George Foreman and Terry Baldwin plus Superstars winner Kyle Rote Jr are some examples. At some American football clubs the players organise prayer sessions before matches and in Britain the Christians in Sport organisation aims to establish a "chaplaincy in every League football club. Canon Keith Tyte is already installed at Newport County.

An insurance problem with contact lenses

London reader Mary Rice has received an unwelcome letter through the post — her insurer will no longer insure her contact lenses. Not because she stamped on them or boiled them up with the eggs, but because they are soft.

Just one year's experience of the soft lens market has convinced her Lloyd's underwriter that "adverse claims experience" demands withdrawal. In other words, he got his sums wrong in a technological market and Mrs Rice is left with £90-worth of uninsured plastic 20/20 vision.

To explain, soft lenses came from Eastern Europe a decade ago, are attractive since you can keep them in overnight, have the cachet of a BMX bike, but are expensive — not least since they must be replaced approximately every 21 in three years.

In addition, they are easily damaged in handling and — unlike hard lenses which last ten years — it is the damage and tearing which gives rise to an excessive number of claims. Brokers have found that giving cover at £33 per cent is not enough, but more than enough for many insurers. The one-third rate means they will have paid twice over for their lenses just when they wear out.

Should the adverse claims experience have also affected your eyesight as a soft lens wearer, you can still get cover — at a price. Burroughs Alford Insurance Company of Horsham will quote you at £98 per cent up to £200, close to £20 an eye. Otherwise wait until the new year pair have worn out. High Street opticians Dollond and Aitchison claim they can offer some light on the retina next month. Previously cautious about prescribing such new-fangled devices, they are launching their own insurance scheme for soft lenses on a pilot basis

in the Midlands, and hope to introduce it nationally by October.

At £15 premium for normal soft lenses and £24 for complex ones — plus a replacement charge of £9 per lens per claim — the claim is insured against loss or damage, with normal wear and tear exclusions relaxed, up to four claims a year. With the two types of lenses costing £84 and £183 a pair respectively, it seems to be too good to be true. So where's the catch?

Simple. You have to buy the lenses from them. Since the suspicion in the trade is that claims rocket as the soft lenses wear out — something the normal insurer can't check out — D and A hope to quash the practice by being judge and jury, optician and insurer.

Watch this space for their 1983-84 adverse claims experience.

Golden echo from the Great Depression

The magazine which exalted all the optimism, frivolity and cultural snobishness of the roaring 20s is being reviewed next month in the U.S. and later in Britain with a splash. *Vanity Fair*, which first appeared in 1914 and disappeared in 1936 at the height of the Great Depression, is making its return just as the U.S. appears to be finally emerging from its worst economic recession since then.

For the *Candide* crowd — the magazine company which owns *Vanity Fair* which is today privately owned by the Newhouse family — the return of *Vanity Fair* fulfils a dream that dates back to 1936. Even when they stopped publishing the magazine, its name was incorporated with *Vogue*. "They never let go of it," explains Ms Heather Collins, the publicity director of the new magazine.

The people at Condé Nast are betting big on the rebirth of *Vanity Fair*, all the more so when the conventional wisdom is that no one really wants "closer" cultural elite at a time of general economic uncertainty. Wrong, the people of *Vanity Fair* say. A new group of readers has emerged in the U.S., according to their market research.

"This new group is wealthy, both male and female, and composed of professional people as well as business men and women. They take a serious and

informed interest in literature and the arts, politics and popular culture. As they rapidly advance up the economic and social ladder, they bring a scepticism and sophistication to their lives that is in many ways unprecedented in American social history." Its new character is that its members are young and not like some of their predecessors, middle-aged.

Is this social psychological bubble? No, says *Vanity Fair*. "These are the people for whom we are publishing the new *Vanity Fair*. They constitute the most valuable, active and influential upscale audience in America today."

In its golden days, the old *Vanity Fair* featured the likes of Dorothy Parker, Edmund Wilson, D. H. Lawrence, T. S. Eliot, Gertrude Stein, among other celebrated contributors. Usually it was stunning with portraits by noted photographers like Man Ray, Edward Steicher and Berenice Abbott among others and reproductions of paintings by Renoir, Matisse and Picasso.

The magazine's first new issue 110 appears on March 1 in the U.S. and March 10 in the UK. It will include a short novel by Gabriel Garcia Marquez, the South American novelist who won the 1982 Nobel Prize for Literature. It promises to be as visually impressive as the original.

But for the publishers *Vanity Fair*, the biggest coup of all has been the response to the new magazine from the advertising community. "We were shooting for 60 pages of advertising in our plans," says Ms Collins. "We've got 168 pages of advertising. This by any standards, is remarkable."

The average of recent new magazine launches in the U.S. has been in a range of between 55 pages to 90 pages of advertising, and with 122 pages of editorial, *Vanity Fair*'s first issue will look more like a book or a big Christmas sales catalogue with a total of 290 pages. "It won't be that thick always. It's normal to have a big splash in the first issue because advertisers like to be in the first edition," says Ms Collins.

The advertisers, whose enthusiastic response will give *Vanity Fair* a staggering \$1.4m in advertising revenues for the first issue, clearly think the return of the magazine will be a success. Only time will tell, however, whether *Vanity Fair* has identified a new cultural elite hungry for what it calls "a magazine for the more complex and contradictory times we live in." It certainly could not have picked a more challenging time.

Inside story of some Royal teeth

While you are reading this, the milk teeth of a future king are working their way through his gums. For Prince William, teething is a testing and often uncomfortable time. Sighs of despair can send mother or nanny scurrying.

But has Prince William tried a Bickiepeg? The answer may not be known for some time as the Royal Household do not disclose what commercial products they buy until they have been used for three years or more.

But the assurance "Used in Royal Nurseries" on the side of each pink, blue and white package of Bickiepegs points to a precedence in the advancement of royal teeth.

Enquiries at Buckingham Palace could not verify the actual number of teeth in Prince William's mouth but it is about his age when they start to appear.

A family company in Aberdeen, Bickiepegs and the small, silver-like teething biscuits are baked in a plant not far from the city centre. James Miller, a 30-year-old business graduate, now runs the company his father bought in 1928. From a well worn black leather binder in his top desk drawer he reveals the history of the Bickiepeg since its invention by Dr Harry Campbell, a Harley Street paediatrician in 1925.

An important growth spurt in the Bickiepeg history book followed the decision in 1924 of the Queen Mother, then the Duchess of York, to allow the firm to adopt the "Used in Royal Nurseries" slogan. It was something less than a royal warrant but some success had been found in assisting the arrival of Princess Margaret's teeth.

No positive indicators have since been received from a subsequent generation of royals as to Bickiepeg use. During the war years the Bickiepeg defied rationing to a sales and production boom. Packets of nine and 15 saw sales reach 3m Bickiepegs a year, a figure reached again in the 1970s.

Most of the staff of the firm in the Aberdeen factory — a converted church hall — have been there 11 years. In the packing room Mrs Mariel Sinclair and Mrs Milly Greenlaw and their two colleagues load each pack with eye-deceiving speed.

A vital design feature of the Bickiepeg is a ribbon which can be attached to a small wrist to aid recovery when dropped.

Questions about the customers for Bickiepegs bring an embarrassed smile to the mustached features of Mr Miller. He wants to help but the technique which turns flour, wheaten salt and water into an object with the consistency of granite, remains a company secret only shared with Mr Leslie Farquhar, the baker.

This is the method, as yet uncopyied by other rusks — which have pinned on Bickiepeg their "tooth inducing qualities."

"Nothing but the Tooth," is the title of one of their sales leaflets.

Contributors:

John Barrett
Roger Beard
Paul Betts
Mark Meredith

Economic Diary

TODAY: Mrs Margaret Thatcher addresses National Young Conservatives conference, Emsworth.

TOMORROW: Department for National Savings' monthly progress report (January). Report of Johnson inquiry into water workers dispute expected.

MONDAY: REC Foreign Ministers start two-day meeting, Brussels. TUC Finance and General Purposes Committee meets. REC Labour Ministers start two days of informal meetings, Bonn. Commons debate ECU.

TUESDAY: Civilian indicators for the UK economy (January). ECU Economic and Social Com-

mittee plenary session opens (February 24). Brussels. Mr Edward Heath speaks on Brandt Commission's report "Common Crisis" at Royal Commonwealth Society.

WEDNESDAY: Mrs Thatcher speaks at Institute of Directors' annual conference, London. REC Transport Ministers meet, Brussels. Sir Keith Joseph, Education Secretary, speaks at Conservative Trade Union seminar, Caxton Hall, SW1. Construction orders (December).

THURSDAY: Balance of Payments. New vehicle registrations (January). Capital expenditure by the manufacturing, distributive and service industries (fourth quarter-provisional). Manufacturers' and distributors' stocks (fourth quarter-provisional). Energy trends (December). Unemployment and unfilled vacancies (January-final). Employment in the production industries (December). Overtime and short-time working in manufacturing industries (December). Bank staff and gas workers pay talks.

FRIDAY: Sales and orders in the engineering industries (November). Finished steel consumption and stock changes (fourth quarter-provisional). Steel unions pay talks.

BUILDING SOCIETY RATES

	Deposit rate %	Share accounts %	Sub'n shares %	% Others
Abbey Natloost	0.00	6.25	7.50	7.25 1-year high option, 7.25 6 years sixty plus, 6.75 min. £100, 7 days' notice no interest lost
Aid to Thrift	7.00	7.25	—	—
Alliance	6.00	0.25	7.75	7.25 3 years Money Monthly £1,000 min. Interest paid monthly
Anglia	0.00	6.25	7.25	7.25 3 yrs., 2 mils. withdraw. notice
Birmingham and Bridgwater	0.00	0.25	7.75	7.25 Extra Interest Shares
Bradford and Bingley	5.75	6.25	7.25	7.00 1 m. not. or on dem. (int. pen.)
Britannia	6.00	6.25	7.25	7.25 High 1. a/c 3 m. not. (no pen.)
Cardiff	6.00	7.00	7.75	7.25 Option Bond, 7.25 2 mils. not.
Cardiff	—	*7.50	—	* Share a/c bal. £10,000 & over
Catholic	6.00	6.50	7.50	7.50 6 months' deposit, £500 min.
Century (Edinburgh)	0.50	7.00	—	8.00 2-4 years
Chebea	6.00	6.25	7.25	7.70 3 yrs., £1,000 min. 90 days pen.
Cheltenham and Gloucester	6.00	6.25	7.25	—
Cheltenham and Gloucester	—	7.25	—	Gold Assured—savings of £1,000 or more. No notice—no penalty
Citizens Regency	0.00	6.50	8.00	7.50 3 yrs. Double Option shs. 7.40
City of London (The)	6.25	6.00	7.50	7.50 Capital City shs. 4 mils. notice
Coventry Economic	6.00	6.25	7.50	7.75 4 yrs., 7.50 3 yrs., 7.25 3 mils.
Derbyshire	6.00	0.25	7.50	6.75-7.35 (3 months' notice)
Greenwich	0.00	6.50	7.75	7.75 2 yrs., 7.50 25-day pen./notice
Guardian	6.00	6.50	—	8.25 6 mils., 7.75 3 mils., £1,000 min.
Hallifax	6.00	6.25	7.25	7.25 Extra Interest Plus, 3 months' wdl. notice or loss of interest
Heart of England	6.00	6.25	7.50	7.00 1 mil. not., 7.25 next min. 3 yr.
Hemel Hempstead	0.00	0.25	7.50	7.75 3 yrs., 7.50 3 months
Hendon	6.50	7.25	—	8.00 6 months, 7.75 3 months
Lambeth	6.00	6.50	7.75	8.00 6 mils., 7.75 25 days. 7.25 3 m.
Leamington Spa	6.10	6.50	0.60	—
Leeds and Holbeck	6.00	6.25	8.00	7.75 5 yrs., 3 mils. interest penalty
Leeds Permanent	0.00	6.25	7.25	7.25 3 yrs., £1. a/c £500 min. 7.00
Leicester	6.00	6.25	7.25	7.25 3 yrs., 7.25 3 months
London Grosvenor	0.00	0.60	8.50	7.10 3 mils. notice 1 mil. int. pen.
London Permanent	6.00	6.75	—	7.50 1 m. not. or on dem. (int. pen.)
Mid-Hires	6.00	6.25	7.50	7.25 1 year, 3 months' notice no pen.
Morogton	0.20	7.50	—	—
National Counties	6.25	6.50	7.50	8.00 25 days, 8.25 6 mils., £500 min.
National and Provincial	6.00	6.25	7.25	7.25 3 years, 7.00 1 month
Nationwide	6.00	6.25	7.25	7.25 3 yrs., £500 min. imm. wdl. with penalty. Bonus a/c £700 £500 min. imm. wdl. with penalty
Newcastle	6.00	6.25	7.50	7.75 4 yrs., 7.25 25 days' notice, or on demand 25 days' int. penalty
New Cross	6.75	7.00	—	7.00-8.00 on share accs., depending on min. balance over 6 months
Northern Rock	6.00	6.25	7.50	7.00 High mil. sh. 7.25 Print. share
Norwich	6.00	6.25	7.50	7.25 3 yrs., 7.00 2 yrs.
Paddington	5.75	6.75	8.25	7.25 7 days' notice
Peckham	6.75	7.00	—	7.50 2 yrs., 8.00 3 yrs., 8.50 4 yrs., 7.25 Bos.
Portsmouth	0.00	6.25	7.75	7.00 1 mil., 7.25 6 mils., 7.25 5 yrs.
Portsmouth	6.35	6.55	8.05	8.40 5 yrs., 8.00 6 mils., 7.50 1 mth.
Property Owners	6.25	6.75	8.25	8.25 4 yrs., 8.25 6 mils., 7.75 3 mils.
Scarborough	6.00	6.25	7.50	7.25 Retirement Bonds (2nd issue), 7.25 Money Care & free life ins.
Skipiton	6.00	6.25	7.50	7.00-7.15 (1 mil.) 7.25 3 yrs.
Sussex County	6.15	6.40	8.15	6.90-7.90 all with withdrawal option
Sussex Mutual	6.25	6.50	8.00	6.75-8.00
Town and Country	6.00	6.25	7.50	7.50 3 yrs., 60 days' wdl. notice 7.50 imm. wdl. 28 days' interest loss
Wessex	6.25	7.30	—	—
Wholwich	6.00	6.25	7.25	7.25 90 days (int. lost), 7.25 Special Interest Shares 90 days' not. or imm. wdl. with 90 days' int. loss (min. £500), 7.00 imm. wdl. 28 days' interest loss
Yorkshire	6.00	6.25	7.25	7.25 5 Star Bond min. £500, 2 mths. not with pen., 7.25 Golden key imm. wdl. 28 days' pen. interest

All these rates are after basic rate tax liability has been settled on behalf of the investor.

SUMMARY OF THE WEEK'S COMPANY NEWS

Take-over bids and deals

Hanson Trust entered the battle for control of UDS with an agreed share exchange offer for 220m shares. This tops last Thursday's revised rival bid from Bassishaw Investments, headed by Mr Gerald Ronson, by some 13m. Hanson is offering five of its own shares for every eight UDS, valuing the latter at 120p per share, against Bassishaw's 114p per share offer. UDS's earlier agreed 578m sale to Burton of the Richard Shops and John Collier chains is now the subject of discussions between Mr James Hanson, the chairman of Hanson Trust, and his opposite number at Burton, Mr Ralph Halpern.

C. H. Beazer, the West Country building group, made a shares and cash bid for Second City Properties valuing the latter at 15.8m. Beazer picked up a 7.2 per cent stake in Second City on Monday and now owns 7.2 per cent of Second City. Beazer is offering one of its own shares plus 85p cash for every five Second City shares; the offer comes less than three weeks after Beazer's revised bid for R. Green Properties was successfully topped by Throgmorton Trust.

In a move to introduce an element of gearing into the company, Kelsay Industries is to buy up part of its own equity capital by means of a tender offer to shareholders. The scheme enables the company to buy back up to 20 per cent of the ordinary shares at between 130p and 240p per share. The purchase of the entire holding could cost up to £1.8m, and Kelsay feels that in view of the current trend in interest rates it would be appropriate to introduce an element of borrowing to finance the scheme. At present, the company has zero borrowings and £10.5m of shareholders' funds.

Kwik-Fit (Tyres and Exhausts) made an agreed share exchange offer for Crest International Securities. The offer is on the basis of three Kwik-Fit shares for every 10 Crest and values the latter at about £5.6m.

P. C. Henderson, the industrial and residential door manufacturer, paid £3.7m for Continental Instruments of the U.S., a

privately-owned manufacturer of industrial and commercial security systems.

Habitat Mothercare made an agreed offer for Heal and Sons. The offer is £38 cash for each Heal ordinary share, valuing the loss-making quality furniture group at just over £4.8m. The bid has already been accepted by shareholders representing 94.3 per cent of Heal's issued shares.

Company	Value of bid for	Share price**	Market price***	Price before bid	Value of bid for	Share price**	Market price***	Price before bid
Aberthaw Cement	640k	575	420	18.40	Blue Circle	80k	55	20
Anglo Met	80k	55	20	18.40	Atlantic Met	80k	55	20
Austin (S.)	80k	55	20	18.40	Capare Inds	80k	55	20
Crest Int	14	124	13	4.96	Kwik-Fit	14	124	13
Edin & Gen Int	21	20	13	4.97	Mills & Allen Int	21	20	13
Green (R.)	135k	130	115	18.47	Throgmorton Trst	135k	130	115
Heal	538k	238	216	18.40	Habitat Mothercare	538k	238	216
Highams	75k	76	62	4.55	Lars	75k	76	62
Joventon Eng	48k	72	62	3.86	Newman-Tonks	48k	72	62
Rowan & Bodens	59k	59	49	2.42	Park	59k	59	49
Second City Prop	664k	58	50	15.66	Beazer (C.H.)	664k	58	50
Sumrie	65k	72	70	0.95	Acor Envs	65k	72	70
Sykes (Henry)	37k	35	25	3.16	Alco Standard	37k	35	25
UDS	114k	115	110	21.4	Bassishaw Invs	114k	115	110
UDS	130	115	110	22.8	Hanson Trust	130	115	110

* All cash offer. ** Cash alternative. † Partial bid. ‡ For capital not already held. § Based on February 1983. ¶ At suspension. †† Estimated. ††† Shares and cash. †††† Unconditional. ††††† Loan stock.

Offers for sale, placings and introductions

HB Electronic Components has joined the Unlisted Securities Market via a placing of 680,000 ordinary 10p shares at 35p per share. International Income Property intends to make an underwritten

offer of 2m shares and then apply for a London listing. Little Aston Hospital will offer 650,000 shares prior to joining the USM. Superdrug Stores—Offer for sale of 8m shares at 175p each. Tandata Holdings has raised £2m through a private placing. Television Services International is coming to the USM by way of a placing of 8m shares at 10p per share. United Packaging is joining the USM via a placing of 495,768 ordinary shares at 72p per share. United Trust and Credit has raised £450,000 through a private placing.

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Company	Year	Pre-tax profit	Earnings*	Dividends*
Alexanders Hedges	Sept	154	(182)	0.5
Arden & Cobden	Dec	75	(35)	8.3
Birmingham	Oct	1,440L	(1,640)	1.5
Drake & Scull	Oct	4,100	(3,800)	10.3
Goode Durand	Oct	2,770	(2,300)	7.8
Hadfield Hedges	Oct	1,570	(1,150)	1.0
Hoover	Dec	5,780L	(30,070)	1.0
Imperial Grp	Dec	1,570	(1,822)	12.5
Jodepand News	Dec	3,540L	(2,150)	17.7
Macpherson (D.)	Dec	1,350	(2,870)	3.0
Manchester Ship	Dec	963L	(2,430)	1.0
Newbold & Burn	Dec	118	(420)	1.6
Waltham (Wm)	Dec	21,280	(18,000)	2.1
Widney	Sept	320L	(417)	1.1
Yeates (W.S.)	Oct	1,520	(1,827)	6.6
York Green Invs	Oct	169	(177)	2.4

INTERIM STATEMENTS

Company	Half-year to	Pre-tax profit	Interim dividends*
Ariel Industries	Sept	46L	(45)L
Bevan (D.F.)	Sept	144L	(35)L
Dalgety	Dec	15,100	(19,600)
Dehoras Services	Sept	60L	(25)L
Douglas (Robt M.)	Sept	95L	(81)L
Epique Hedges	Dec	705	(540)
Equipe	Oct	201	(230)
Ewart New Nurn	Oct	22	(15)
Fashion & Gen	Sept	196	(218)
Grippepods	Oct	370	(325)
Guidhall Prop	Dec	555	(538)
Hampson Inds	Sept	198	(163)
Hartley & Crisp	Jan	75	(101)L
Heelam Inds	Oct	383	(307)
InterEurope	Dec	383	(307)
Kwahu	Dec	46	(34)
Mining Supplies	Oct	952L	(877)L
Press Tools	Oct	125	(70)
Reid & Co	Oct	235	(110)
Stonehill Hedges	Nov	206L	(163)
Watshams	Sept	537	(401)
Webb (Joseph)	Sept	95	(240)
Wrightson (A.J.)	Sept	138L	(171)

* Figures in parentheses are for the corresponding period 1. Dividends are shown net except where otherwise stated. † Previous 15 months. ‡ In £. § In £15L. †† Loss.

Rights Issues

Geers Gross is raising £4.25m by way of a rights issue on the basis of one for four at 163p. Magnet and Southern is raising £27.5m by way of a one for eight rights issue at 140p per share. Valor is making a one for four rights issue at 50p in raise £2.7m.

Authorised Units—continued

Equity & Law Unit, Trs. Mngs. (a)(b)(c)	Do Account	20.11.82	21.1
Equity & Law Unit, Trs. Mngs. (a)(b)(c)	20.11.82	21.1	21.1
Equity & Law Unit, Trs. Mngs. (a)(b)(c)	20.11.82	21.1	21.1

Insurances—continued

Company	Value of bid for	Share price**	Market price***	Price before bid	Value of bid for	Share price**	Market price***	Price before bid
Ally Life Assurance Co Ltd	1,000	1.00	1.00	1.00	1,000	1.00	1.00	1.00
Ally Life Assurance Co Ltd	1,000	1.00	1.00	1.00	1,000	1.00	1.00	1.00
Ally Life Assurance Co Ltd	1,000	1.00	1.00	1.00	1,000	1.00	1.00	1.00

Offshore and Overseas—continued

Company	Value of bid for	Share price**	Market price***	Price before bid	Value of bid for	Share price**	Market price***	Price before bid
Perpetual U.T. Managers (Jersey) Ltd	1,000	1.00	1.00	1.00	1,000	1.00	1.00	1.00
Perpetual U.T. Managers (Jersey) Ltd	1,000	1.00	1.00	1.00	1,000	1.00	1.00	1.00
Perpetual U.T. Managers (Jersey) Ltd	1,000	1.00	1.00	1.00	1,000	1.00	1.00	1.00

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Option	Call	Put	Call	Put	Call	Put	Call	Put
BP (USP 523)	260	68	11	2	1	1	1	1
CGF (USP 57)	590	158	157	1	1	1	1	1
OTD (USP 67)	70	10	81	25	1 1/2	2 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2
GUA (USP 126)	130	17	18	17	8	11	12	12
GEC (USP 202)	150	26	34	40	6	6	6	6
GMN (USP 561)	240	125	1	1	1	1	1	1
ICI (USP 584)	280	125	1	1	1	1	1	1
LS (USP 503)	340	65	55	42	3	4	7	7
M & S (USP 199)	150	44	64	19	1 1/2	8	18	18
SHL (USP 444)	260	34	62	60	5	6	12	12
BBL (USP 440)	350	85	60	8	5	15	25	25
IMP (USP 131)	80	51	17 1/2	1	1	1	1	1
LMO (USP 577)	260	27	57	62	12	23	27	27
LNR (USP 501)	80	5	11	18	5 1/2	10	13	13
P & O (USP 125)	100	25	28	8	4	8	12	12
RCL (USP 432)	450	35	45	38	50	58	62	62
RTZ (USP 585)	590	140	115	1	1	1	1	1
VFP (USP 139)	55	55	1	1	1	1	1	1

CONTRACTS

Matthew Hall wins £21m in Australia

MATTHEW HALL MECHANICAL SERVICES (PTY), an Australian subsidiary of the Matthew Hall Group, has been awarded two major contracts, one of which is the largest single service order received by the company. This is for fire engineering services for the Electricity Commission of New South Wales at the Baywater power station in the Hunter Valley, north west of Sydney, and the Mount Piper power station to be constructed on the Western coal fields in the Portland area. The contract, worth about \$20m (\$12.6m) will include wet sprinkler systems, high velocity sewage systems, foam installations, fire and gas detection, and a microprocessor supervisory system. The second order worth \$14m (\$8.5m) is for building engineering services in a five star, 400-bedroom hotel to be constructed in Perth, Western Australia, for the Meriton Group. The 2.5 hectare site will also include low rise office and commercial buildings and underground parking facilities for 1,000 vehicles. A 40-storey office tower and a 35-storey apartment block is also planned. Matthew Hall will provide the air conditioning, plumbing, heating, electrical and fire engineering services.

First phase of a development programme at St. Paul's Girls' School will be carried out by City Builders, ASHBY AND HORNER, at a cost of £1.04m, due to be completed in April 1984. A three-storey theatre block, with a floor area of 1,600 sq metres is being built within the school grounds adjacent to the existing school in Brook Green, Hammersmith. It will contain 11 classrooms, a library, a computer, a workshop with 13 micro-processors, and a theatre with offices. The theatre will be known as the Celia Johnson Theatre in tribute to a much admired Paulina. Phase two of the development will create an engineering workshop, to be named after Rosalind Franklin, another distinguished Paulina who contributed to the discovery of DNA. The workshop, of about 200 sq metres, will be equipped with machine and hand tools, and will be used for the study of the Oldway Group, is to build 46,000 sq ft scenery workshops, stores and warehouse for the Welsh National Opera Company, which will be based in the former Tyndall Field munitions yards of British Rail at Tyndall Street, Cardiff, part of the docks development area. The contract is worth £1m, with completion scheduled for August.

TELEPHONE RENTALS has won a contract extending over 10 years to provide Kodak with a new UK communications network. It is understood to be worth over £800,000 a year, the largest single rental contract ever obtained by the group. It covers design, supply, installation and maintenance of a private all-digital network which links 13 Kodak sites stretching from London to Sarnia, and claimed to give Telephone Rentals two "firsts".

It is the first contract to be awarded to a private company against the timetable laid down by the British Telecommunications Act 1981, which allows private companies with the required technical competence and nationwide service capability to provide digital PAEX systems to provide digital and analogue microwave equipment, while NNE will supply and install microwave towers and standby power, and will also be jointly responsible for the management of the project. The network will link several towns, including the oil-producing off-shore islands in the Abu Dhabi Emirates, and will also feature an analogue international link to Saudi Arabia. The entire network is scheduled to be in operation in early 1984.

GEE, WALKER AND SLATER, part of the Wiggins group, is to build a £3m leisure centre at Penarth for the Vale of Glamorgan Borough Council, with a completion date in 1984.

The facilities will include a swimming pool with walk-in beach type access, squash courts, multi-purpose sports hall, gymnasium, cafeteria and administrative offices.

Further sales of the MARCONI B923 one kilowatt medium-frequency sound broadcasting transmitter are worth about £250,000. Latest customer is

an order worth \$17m (£11m) for the supply of three gas turbines generating sets to the Oil and Natural Gas Commission of India has been received by GEC GAS TURBINES of Leicester, England. The order was placed by the Korean major contractor and platform build Hyundai Heavy Industries Company. The units will power the Water Injection North platform to assist oil recovery. Capable of running on oil or gas fuel, the turbines will normally run on natural gas with liquid fuel as standby.

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APPOINTMENTS

Grandmet makes changes

Mr Roger Hewitt who was appointed to the board of GRANDMET INTERNATIONAL SERVICES (GIS) as technical Services director on October 1 has relinquished his position as managing director of the GIS subsidiaries, Grandmet Waste Services (GWS) and Powell Duffryn Pollution Control (PDPC). He will remain on the boards of GWS and PDPC as the executive director responsible for their activities in GIS. In addition Mr Hewitt has become managing director of Grandmet Technical Services (GTS) and is also the executive director responsible for that activity to GIS. Mr Barry Trowbridge has been appointed to the boards of Grandmet Waste Services/Powell Duffryn Pollution Control as managing director. He joins from four years, laterally as managing director of CTMS and general manager of GWS (Middle East) and CTMS (United Arab Emirates).

Mr Menno J. Lambek has been appointed operations director of PVE TELECOMMUNICATIONS. The company's first Dutch director, he was previously technical director of Philips in Singapore. He has worked for Philips companies in Holland, South Africa and Brazil.

SKETCHLEY, industrial workwear and dry cleaning group, has appointed Mr Richard J. Newton as deputy chairman. The chairman, Mr Gerald Wright, has been appointed due to a prolonged illness and Mr Newton, a 300-executive director for the past five years, who has been acting as chairman, will continue to do so.

Mr L. Cookin and Mr P. G. Pines have been appointed joint managing directors of the BURTON GROUP. Mr Cookin and Mr Pines are both directors of the group and members of the executive management board. They have been with the group for about 14 years. Mr Cookin is responsible for buying, merchandising and manufacturing and Mr Pines is responsible for retail operations, property and shop development.

SEABOARD INTERNATIONAL (TIMBER AND PLY) has appointed Mr D. Littlejohn and Mr A. S. Muskat as directors.

Mr Usama R. Mikdash, vice president, has been appointed to head CITIBANK's credit policy supervision for Europe, Middle East and Africa. Mr Mikdash, who was formerly senior credit officer for the Middle East and Africa division, stationed in Athens, will be based in London. He joined the Bank in his home country, Lebanon, in 1982. He is a graduate of Harvard University.

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Agreement at ADB on capital increase

By Emilia Tagan in Manila

THE ASIAN Development Bank (ADB) yesterday confirmed that China had officially requested to become a member. The bank also announced a compromise agreement to a 105 per cent increase in this year's authorized capital.

Mr. Masao Fujio, ADB president, said China's eligibility for membership would be decided by a two-thirds vote of the bank's board of governors. "I think many governments support China's admission to the bank," he added.

But he warned that China's approach would create a problem over Taiwanese membership, which the Chinese want terminated.

Taiwan, a founding member, has a subscribed capital in the bank of \$100m, \$19.5m of which has been paid in. Its total loans amount to \$100m, of which \$40m was outstanding as of last December.

Taiwan is expected to lobby hard in Washington to maintain its membership of the bank.

The agreement on the capital increase raises subscribed capital from \$7.5bn to \$16.2bn. But the paid-in portion will be 5 per cent, against last year's 10 per cent, because of budgetary constraints in most member countries.

But Mr. Fujio does not expect this to affect drastically the bank's commercial borrowing. The ADB would borrow \$100m from international capital markets this year, against last year's \$88m and 1981's \$68m.

ADB officials said last year, some developed countries, particularly the U.S., the bank's second largest contributor after Japan, favoured a smaller capital increase.

Some other countries also wanted a paid-in portion lower than the 10 per cent. ADB officials were asking while the U.S. wanted no paid-in capital at all.

Mexico allows full foreign control of Grupo Alfa units

By William Chislett in Mexico City

THE MEXICAN Government will allow foreign investors full control of the subsidiaries which Grupo Industrial Alfa, the country's largest and troubled private enterprise, hopes to sell off to pay back and reschedule its \$2.3bn debt.

Mexico's foreign investment law restricts foreign participation in a joint venture to a maximum of 49 per cent except in very special circumstances which are left to the authorities to determine.

Sr. Ernesto Canales, Alfa's vice-president for legal matters, said the company had been told by the Government that

Alfa would be considered in the "special" category. The Government, which is wrestling with a liquidity crisis and a fierce recession, is keen to attract foreign capital. Alfa, which has not made any repayment of principal debt since last April and which also deferred about 70 per cent of its interest payments last August, plans to divest itself of 45 per cent of its 165,500 pesos of assets. The company over-extended itself on the back of massive foreign borrowing. The peso exchange rate has plummeted in the past year, but when Alfa stopped repaying its foreign debts, its assets were worth about \$3.4bn in dollar terms.

Its paper and packaging, tourism, food, consumer and capital goods interest will be sold off. A new streamlined Alfa will be formed, containing the Hytisa steel mill and four petrochemical concerns.

The proposals are set out in a liquidation plan announced in December by Lehman Brothers, Kuhn Loeb, the New York investment bankers and financial advisers, who are leading the debt restructuring effort on behalf of Alfa. The company met its creditors in Houston last month when it asked for an extension of its temporary debt moratorium.

New car sales in January were the lowest in three years and are expected to fall to about 250,000 units this year, compared to 283,000 in 1982.

Motor vehicle sales volumes shrank by 15 per cent in South Africa in the second half of last year, and motor-vehicle sales were 27 per cent down on July-December 1981.

The success of Voltas stands in some contrast to the generally depressed state of most of Indian industry. A year ago, Voltas revamped its corporate strategy with rural development now an important element in its plans, Mr. Tobaccowala said.

The company is diversified with a strong nationwide marketing network. It makes air conditioning equipment (with technical assistance from the Carrier Corporation of the U.S.), machine tools, electric motors and bulk materials handling equipment. To addition, Voltas distributes pharmaceutical and milk products manufactured by other companies.

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Sharp decline for McCarthy

By Bernard Simon in Johannesburg

MCCARTHY GROUP, South Africa's largest motor vehicle and motor-cycle distributor, suffered another sharp decline in earnings in the six months to December 1982, with net profits falling by 41 per cent to R4.9m (\$4.3m).

Sales dropped to R371.5m from R379.7m and operating profits were down to R12.5m from R18.5m. The interim dividend has been cut to 10 cents from 15 cents, the second consecutive dividend reduction.

The directors said: "Competition was extremely keen and gross profit margins came under considerable pressure." In view of an expected further contraction of the South African market during 1983, they warn that earnings "are likely to show a further downward trend" in the second half.

McCarthy, which claims to be the world's third largest retailing group, has franchises for eight of South Africa's 10 motor vehicle manufacturers.

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Property sale lifts profits at Flakt

By David Brown in Stockholm

FLAKT, the Swedish ventilation and pollution control group, has reported a slight increase in pre-tax profits for 1982 to SKr 207m (\$38m) from SKr 204m a year earlier. Sales rose by SKr 1bn to SKr 7bn.

The rise in group pre-tax profit was achieved, however, an extraordinary gain of SKr 60m from the sale of property in Sweden and Australia.

Of the gain SKr 10m was taken into the group balance sheet of the pre-tax level and SKr 50m was taken into the parent company results, boosting pre-tax profits to SKr 113m. Without the gain pre-tax profit would have been unchanged from 1981's SKr 63m.

The group, which was taken over in 1981 by ASEA, the Swedish electrical concern, has proposed a dividend for 1982 of SKr 9 a share, up SKr 1 from 1981.

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Recession brings first annual loss for Stelco

By Robert Gibbons in Montreal

STELCO, Canada's largest steel-maker, has reported a net loss before preferred dividends of C\$40.8m (U.S.\$33.3m) for 1982, the first annual loss in its 72-year history.

The loss compares with a net profit of C\$82.8m of C\$14.5 a share in 1981 and reflects the severe recession in North America, low prices, import competition and cancellation of major Canadian energy projects.

Despite pressures on cash-flow, Stelco will complete its hot strip mill at its new Lake Erie works in Ontario in the second quarter this year.

Stelco's results are in line with those of Algoma Steel, the third largest steel company. Only Dofasco, the second largest producer which specialises in sheet products, was profitable in 1982.

All the Canadian steel companies remain pessimistic about 1983, but signs of an upturn in demand are beginning to show with lower interest rates and a revival in the construction industry.

Stelco, which has a domestic market share of about 35 per cent, had shown losses in the first three quarters of 1982. It cut overheads severely and laid off several thousand workers in the second half.

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INSURANCE & OVERSEAS MANAGED FUNDS

[illegible]

Buchanan's

the Scotch of a lifetime

MINES—Continued

Central African

STOCKS	Low	Stock	Price	±	Div. Rate	CY	TY
75	10	Falcon Rh. SDC	300	—	—	10.9	5.9
76	10	Gold & Base SDC	27	—	—	10.9	5.9
77	10	Gold & Base SDC	27	—	—	10.9	5.9

Australians

10	6	WAGM 20C	230	—	—	—	—
11	6	Waggon Gold M. SDC	10	—	—	—	—
12	6	Waggon M. SDC	10	—	—	—	—
13	6	Waggon M. SDC	10	—	—	—	—
14	6	Waggon M. SDC	10	—	—	—	—
15	6	Waggon M. SDC	10	—	—	—	—
16	6	Waggon M. SDC	10	—	—	—	—
17	6	Waggon M. SDC	10	—	—	—	—
18	6	Waggon M. SDC	10	—	—	—	—
19	6	Waggon M. SDC	10	—	—	—	—
20	6	Waggon M. SDC	10	—	—	—	—
21	6	Waggon M. SDC	10	—	—	—	—
22	6	Waggon M. SDC	10	—	—	—	—
23	6	Waggon M. SDC	10	—	—	—	—
24	6	Waggon M. SDC	10	—	—	—	—
25	6	Waggon M. SDC	10	—	—	—	—
26	6	Waggon M. SDC	10	—	—	—	—
27	6	Waggon M. SDC	10	—	—	—	—
28	6	Waggon M. SDC	10	—	—	—	—
29	6	Waggon M. SDC	10	—	—	—	—
30	6	Waggon M. SDC	10	—	—	—	—
31	6	Waggon M. SDC	10	—	—	—	—
32	6	Waggon M. SDC	10	—	—	—	—
33	6	Waggon M. SDC	10	—	—	—	—
34	6	Waggon M. SDC	10	—	—	—	—
35	6	Waggon M. SDC	10	—	—	—	—
36	6	Waggon M. SDC	10	—	—	—	—
37	6	Waggon M. SDC	10	—	—	—	—
38	6	Waggon M. SDC	10	—	—	—	—
39	6	Waggon M. SDC	10	—	—	—	—
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41	6	Waggon M. SDC	10	—	—	—	—
42	6	Waggon M. SDC	10	—	—	—	—
43	6	Waggon M. SDC	10	—	—	—	—
44	6	Waggon M. SDC	10	—	—	—	—
45	6	Waggon M. SDC	10	—	—	—	—
46	6	Waggon M. SDC	10	—	—	—	—
47	6	Waggon M. SDC	10	—	—	—	—
48	6	Waggon M. SDC	10	—	—	—	—
49	6	Waggon M. SDC	10	—	—	—	—
50	6	Waggon M. SDC	10	—	—	—	—
51	6	Waggon M. SDC	10	—	—	—	—
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54	6	Waggon M. SDC	10	—	—	—	—
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57	6	Waggon M. SDC	10	—	—	—	—
58	6	Waggon M. SDC	10	—	—	—	—
59	6	Waggon M. SDC	10	—	—	—	—
60	6	Waggon M. SDC	10	—	—	—	—
61	6	Waggon M. SDC	10	—	—	—	—
62	6	Waggon M. SDC	10	—	—	—	—
63	6	Waggon M. SDC	10	—	—	—	—
64	6	Waggon M. SDC	10	—	—	—	—
65	6	Waggon M. SDC	10	—	—	—	—
66	6	Waggon M. SDC	10	—	—	—	—
67	6	Waggon M. SDC	10	—	—	—	—

Tins

135	25	Ever Hiram S.M.I.	210	+5	68c	1.0	12.8
136	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
137	25	Coping Cons.	525	—	—	—	—
138	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
139	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
140	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
141	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
142	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
143	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
144	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
145	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
146	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
147	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
148	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
149	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
150	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
151	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
152	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
153	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
154	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
155	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
156	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
157	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
158	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
159	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
160	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
161	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
162	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
163	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
164	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
165	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
166	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
167	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
168	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
169	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
170	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
171	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
172	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
173	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
174	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
175	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
176	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
177	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
178	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
179	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
180	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
181	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
182	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
183	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
184	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
185	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
186	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
187	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
188	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
189	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
190	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
191	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
192	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
193	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
194	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
195	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
196	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
197	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
198	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
199	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—
200	25	Gold & Base 122p	110	—	—	—	—

Miscellaneous

20	20	Wargo-Dominion	70	—	—	—	—
21	20	Wargo Dist. Sec.	73	—	—	—	—
22	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
23	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
24	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
25	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
26	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
27	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
28	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
29	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
30	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
31	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
32	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
33	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
34	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
35	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
36	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
37	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
38	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
39	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
40	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
41	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
42	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
43	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
44	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
45	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
46	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
47	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
48	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
49	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
50	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
51	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
52	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
53	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
54	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
55	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
56	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
57	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
58	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
59	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
60	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
61	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
62	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
63	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
64	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
65	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
66	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
67	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
68	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
69	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
70	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
71	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
72	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
73	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
74	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
75	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
76	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
77	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
78	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
79	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
80	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
81	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
82	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
83	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
84	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
85	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
86	20	Far Barna	Southwest Res	—	—	—	—
87	20	Far Barna					

[illegible]

